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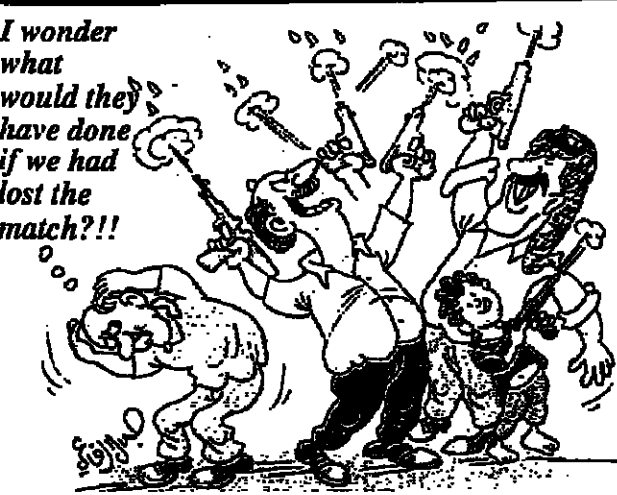
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## Window on Jordan

By a Star Staff Writer  
THE SWEET taste of our victory against Syria in the final football match of the Pan Arab Games has intoxicated Jordanians everywhere. For years Jordanians have yearned for a straight forward, unadulterated, easy to understand victory. It was a victory for the common man. And it came; twice within a week. Jordan's defeat of Kuwait in the football match that brought them together last week has sent Jordanians

to the streets. Why? They had qualified for the final match, and had a chance to win an important gold medal in one of the most important competitions in the Games being held in Lebanon. But that was not the main reason for people's intoxication. The victory had strong political overtones, even though we could not state that officially.  
With Kuwait it was the residue of our bitterness from the Gulf Crisis, generated and bottled up in the

hearts of those who saw the crisis, and the war that followed, in a different light than the rest of the world. May be that's why Iraqis also rejoiced and danced in the streets of Baghdad to celebrate Kuwait's football upset.  
Then came our triumph over Syria in the final match on Sunday. And that again gave Jordanians a fresh dose of national pride. Sports has replaced poli-



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# The Star

Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

**Le Jourdain**  
Supplément en français du Star

Le cyclisme jordanien existe, nous l'avons rencontré

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**SUMMER '97**

see page 8 & 9

AMMAN, 31 JULY — 6 AUGUST 1997, VOLUME 8, NUMBER 10, 350 fils

اسبوعية سياسية مستقلة

## Ross postpones trip to region Diplomatic activity halted after Jerusalem suicide attack leaves 13 Israelis dead

By a Star Staff Writer and agency reports  
AMMAN—Two bombs have exploded in the center of West Jerusalem's outdoor market place. Between 11 to 18 people are said to have been killed and about 150 were injured.  
There have been no claims of responsibility for the blasts, so far. But Israeli police say they suspect two suicide bombers carrying explosives in bags, the bombings are similar to attacks carried out in the past by Islamic extremists.  
The two powerful explosions went off a few seconds apart in the Muhane Yehuda farmers market in the heart of Jewish West Jerusalem. The market is dense with shops and fruit and vegetable stands, and always crowded with shoppers. Hundreds of security forces cordoned off the area.  
Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat telephoned Israeli President Ezer Weizman and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to express his condolences.  
The Israeli army erected checkpoints around the city of Jerusalem and has imposed a total closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, barring the entry of Palestinians to Israel.  
The bombings have forced US Middle East envoy Dennis Ross to postpone a much publicized visit to the region during which he was to meet with Arafat and Netanyahu with ideas on ways to revive the stalled peace process.  
Wednesday's market explosions interrupted a flurry of diplomatic activity this week, which renewed hopes of a new US initiative to jump start the stalled Middle East peace process.  
President Clinton was sending his Middle East envoy Dennis Ross to the region Wednesday to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. A White House statement announcing

Mr Ross' trip says the envoy would be conveying "some US ideas" to move the peace process forward.  
Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak flew to Damascus on Tuesday for to meet with Syrian President Hafez Assad. On his way home, President Mubarak, whose "country" was involved until two weeks ago, in an initiative to bring Palestinians and Israelis back to the negotiation table, stopped in Amman airport for a brief summit with His Majesty King Hussein. The King had met with Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy in Amman on the same day.  
But on Wednesday Netanyahu said in remarks published in an Israeli newspaper that Israel was not an American "client state" and Washington could not dictate formulas for reviving Middle East peacemaking.

"There are no American client states here," Netanyahu told the Haaretz newspaper in an interview published after the White House announced that it was sending Ross to the region for high-level talks on advancing the peace process.  
"The United States is a partner in efforts, not only on our part but on the part of Palestinians as well, to reach an agreed settlement and the key word is agreed. This must be accomplished through consultation and agreement and not by dictates," Netanyahu said.  
Talks between Israelis and Palestinians have been stalled since March, when Israel began building a new neighborhood in occupied Arab East Jerusalem.  
However, limited talks were expected to resume within days on the promises made, but not kept, under previous agree-



**Hot Dog Month—7-Eleven test kitchen employees Charles McGuffey and Patsy Ross demonstrate some of the hundreds of ways to dress up your dog this summer as they celebrate July as National Hot Dog Month. The convenience store chain will sell more than 90 million hot dogs this year, and research shows that 83 percent of them will be adorned with at least one condiment. The type varies by region—onions and relish are big in Chicago and jalapenos move faster in the Southwest—but mustard is the perennial favorite, followed by ketchup. (Feature Photo Service)**

Continued on page 2

## Weeklies almost declare victory over press law

By Raed Al Abed  
Star Staff Writer  
SINCE THE 15 August deadline is only two weeks away, weekly newspapers are in a race with time to put their house in order and comply with the regulations of the 1997 temporary Press and Publication Law which was imposed unilaterally by the government last May.  
The weeklies have to fulfill tough procedures ordered by two provisions in the new law: increase their capital and find a chief editors with 10-year experience.  
Article 24/A of the law, compels dailies to increase their capital from JD 50,000 to JD 600,000. These giants have no problem, but the big deal lies in Section (B) of the same article which orders other publications and weeklies to increase their capital by 20 times, from JD 15,000 to JD 300,000. The weekly press has another nightmare. Article 13/B requires the Chief Editor to have been working as a full-time journalist for at least 10 years or to have a 10-year experience in journalism.  
Despite their principle rejection, weeklies are struggling to meet the stringent requirements of the law. All weeklies are now involved in intense negotiations to find investors to hike up their capital to JD 300,000 and a qualified editor.  
Fifteen days remain. Editors of weeklies believe that the new law is targeted at eliminating them from the market. Few

have sorted themselves out while for others, it is becoming a legal battle.  
So far only two weeklies officially announced their compliance with the law.  
The Al Bilad Press and Publications Company has succeeded in recruiting investors both inside the country and Jordanian businessmen working in Arab Gulf states. The management have already merged three weeklies into one: Al Bilad, Al Sayad and Al Hayat. Plus, the new editor of the newspaper which is yet to be named, is Bassem Sakejha, a well-known journalist, who has been in the field for more than 10 years and is member of the Jordanian Press Association.  
Last week Sawt Al Mar'a (woman's voice) weekly reappeared on the market after three weeks of absence. The owners managed to raise its capital to half a million dinars and assigned a qualified chief editor.  
According to general manager Jamal Al Muhtasib of Dar Al Muhtasib for Press and Publication, and owners of Sawt Al Mar'a say the paper will be ready by the 15 August deadline. It will then become a public share company. "On Saturday next week we will submit to the Press and publication Dept., a bank statement of JD 500,000, and we assigned Ahmad Theibani as chief editor." He added firmly that the Press and Publication Dept., has no right to ask for such a state-

ment but the regulation of the Ministry of Trade and Industry demands a proof for public share companies.  
However, some like Shihun, the most popular and eldest, and unlike many of the independent weeklies, will financially survive, but its current Chief Editor, Mr. Raja Tallub, will not make it because his experience in the business is less than 10 years. So Shihun is now busy searching for an experienced editor.  
Islamists also will not leave their breathing lung with no financial feed. Al Sabeeel (The Path) weekly, which is the mouthpiece of the Islamic movement in Jordan, and whose board is chaired by Jameel Abu Baker, director of the Muslim Brotherhood information office, is waiting till the last day. "We principally reject the new press law, even if we are forced to readjust our situation," said Mr. Atiff Joulani, editor-in-chief of Al Sabeeel.  
"We will be the last to meet the deadline, till this moment no measures have been taken by us to comply with the new law." An Islamic source maintained that Al Sabeeel will not face any financial problems to increase its capital to JD 300,000. But concerning the editor-in-chief, the paper might face some problems since most of its journalists went to other newspapers. The source added that the Islamists

Continued on page 2

## Palestinian deputies charge Arafat's cabinet of corruption, call on them to resign

AMMAN (Star)—A Palestinian legislative committee has urged Palestinian Authority head Yasser Arafat to fire his entire cabinet accusing them of massive corruption.  
The recommendations come in the wake of increasing complaints by Palestinians of alleged corruption in the self-rule areas.  
The Palestinian Legislative Panel's report calls for the dismissal of Mr Arafat's entire cabinet until those ministers who are under suspicion of corruption are put on trial and either cleared or convicted.  
The panel was set up in response to an internal audit issued a few months ago which found that Palestinian Authority officials had squandered nearly half of the Authority's 1997 budget.



Shaath

President Arafat appointed his own committee to evaluate those charges. That committee, made up of respected academics, reported last week that serious financial, legal and administrative violations had taken place.

Specifically mentioned in the panel's recommendations are Civil Affairs Minister Jamil Tarifi, Planning Minister and chief negotiator Nabil Shaath, and Transport Minister Ali Kawasmeh. All three men are close associates of Yasser Arafat. There have already been reports that Mr Arafat is considering a cabinet shakeup.  
The Palestinian Legislative Council has no authority to enforce the recommendations of the five-man panel, but this public criticism of the Palestinian Authority is unprecedented. It blames cabinet members for ignoring earlier reports of mismanagement, citing such wide-ranging abuses as diverting foreign aid donations to personal use, and accepting bribes.

Neither the panel nor the earlier committee's report investigated Mr Arafat's own office.  
The Palestinian Authority's head is under pressure from international donors, including the United States and the European Union, which have contributed about one-and-one-half billion dollars to the three-year-old self-rule government. Concerns about accountability have considerably slowed down the flow of funds.  
Ordinary Palestinians have long expressed resentment to stories of graft, favoritism and the open display of wealth by Authority officials.  
Mr Shaath has denied the allegations and accused legislative members of conspiring to oust him and his colleagues so they can become ministers themselves.

By Nicholas Goldberg  
LA Times-Washington Post News Service  
ISTANBUL—Matild Manukyan loves to talk about her enormous, custom-built yacht, her multimillion-dollar charitable contributions and the houses she owns all over Turkey—but she does not like to talk about where the money comes from.  
The reason is that Manukyan—an 82-year-old pillar of Istanbul society, who has been known to pay as much as \$9 million in annual taxes—is the country's most famous madam, and her enormous fortune was built over 30 years from a string of 32 run-down brothels. She still owns

## Turkey's famous 'madam' brags on as prostitution flourishes in Turkey

almost a dozen of them.  
"Oh, who cares about that," she said in an interview at her massive, multi-floored, flower-filled apartment. "People always like to find something wrong with what you do. I don't listen."  
The reason she doesn't like to talk about it is not that it's illegal. In fact, Turkey is one of the few countries in the world where prostitution is legal.  
A person, like Manukyan who wants to set up a brothel must go first to the government and agree to be regulated by the health and social service authorities. Simi-

larly, anyone who wants to become a prostitute must apply for a certificate, agree to regular AIDS and venereal disease checkups, and work only at a licensed brothel.  
In many ways, the system works well. Because of government regulation, there are believed to be fewer pimps extorting or abusing women. There are safeguards regulating who may become a prostitute.  
But even the regulations have not made life pleasant for Turkey's prostitutes, a fact that may help explain Manukyan's reluctance to dwell on the subject.  
In the Karakoy district of Istanbul—at the entrance to the narrow, cobblestone alleyways where Manukyan's houses and

others are located—a police gate bars the way, and from the main street outside, nothing is visible. But once past the gate, a short walk up a hilly path reveals a string of storefront brothels lined up next to one another, lit by garish neon lights giving the impression of a disolute nighttime carnival.  
The women are dressed in bikinis or leotards or skimpy night shirts. Or they're naked, smoking and waiting while a dense crowd of Turkish men stands before them gawking. Most of the men don't go into the houses, at all but have merely come to stare and leer.  
A brief encounter usually costs about \$10; the men in the street said. Or, depending on the

age of the prostitute—and some women were clearly in their late 50s or early 60s—it can cost as little as \$1 or \$2. Whatever the women earn must be shared with the brothel.  
More than half of the prostitutes said that their clients refused to use condoms, and that although they were very worried about AIDS, they felt they had no choice but to agree.  
"I am so unhappy here," said a woman who gave her name only as Laura. "I don't want to do this anymore. But it is not so easy to stop."  
According to the 1996 quarterly records of the Turkish government, there are 56 brothels in Turkey. The number of regis-

Continued on page 2

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# Irbid's impromptu celebration of Jordan's football gold

By Elise Y. Sadoun  
Special to The Star

IRBID—On Sunday evening, as the commentator shouted "Goal!!! Goal!!!", thousands of Irbid football fans took to the streets in jubilation. Rich or poor, young or old, all were proud to be Jordanians, as they honked, sang, danced and waved flags in celebration of Jordan's win against Syria in the title match for the gold medal in football in this week's Eighth Arab Sports Competition in Beirut.

The streets were full of vehicles sporting flags, teenage boys, and entire families. Passengers found innovative ways of riding, throwing caution to the wind by hanging out of windows and sunroofs, hanging off of lorries and buses, and riding on roofs and hoods.

Some rode in the backs of lorries and even in the trunks of cars with their feet dangling off the back. No vehicle was excluded in the celebration, as cars, trucks, bicycles, semi-truck cabs, and even earth moving vehicles, loaded with happy passengers paraded around the city.

From every rooftop the sounds of joy could be heard. Car horns honked out every type of rhythm, and even musical horns were heard. Young men banged on drums, and where drums were lacking, young boys made do with biscuit tins.

Recorders and Oud's were played through the streets, and guns were fired until emptied of ammo. Women trilled the traditional Arabic cheer, as groups of people sang various songs of national pride. Even babies in the back seats of cars clapped along with the reverberation.

Merry-makers expressed their joy by waving flags of all sizes. Some tied the flags to out-turned windshield wipers, while others waved them out through vehicle windows. If a flag could not be found in time, young men made do by tying the red and white Jordanian head-dress to a stick, or simply shed their shirts and waved them over their heads. Cars of party snow and shaving cream were sprayed in the air, and firecrackers were set up in the air and exploded overhead. Olive and pine branches were stripped off trees and carried around town.

Jamea' Street beside Yarmouk University was especially vibrant. Young men packed the coffee and bubble-bubble shops around the circle, earnestly watching the game. When the first shouts of "Goal!!!" sounded, everyone took to the streets. Groups of 20-100 people circulated the streets, dancing, singing and drumming. Families gathered to watch the festivities as vehicles drove through the circle in an unending parade.

Two Caterpillar steam-shovels entered

the circle with a row of guys in the shovels. Upon cue, they raised their shovels high and proceeded through the street, amid shouts and cheers. Police officers did their best to control the flow of traffic, allowing the crowd to congregate in the street, dancing, singing and even throwing each other in the air, occupying approximately one kilometer of Jamea' street. One lorry entered the circle so overloaded with people, Needless to say, the police ordered half the people to get off.

The sudden celebration was a boon for the circle's coffee and snack shops. Fatah Ahura' of Al Baba Bakery and Coffee Shop, located directly on the circle said, "Our business tonight has more than quadrupled since the game started." As members of the controlled, happy crowd grew thirsty, bottles of soda were sold. Even the snack and coffee carts cashed in. Entrepreneurial boys took the chance to pick up pop cans to turn in for cash at the recycling center.

A few scattered vehicle accidents did little to slow the happy celebration, as parents piled sleepy kids and babies in the car to cruise around town. Hearts swelled with national pride, and even foreigners took part in the fun as fancy cars sporting Gulf license plates circulated the city. Some folks played it safe by pulling their cars up on the sidewalk to watch the



parade go by. One family even brought their invalid mother to the circle to enjoy the sight. Chance meetings of friends and relatives added to the fun, and new friends were made as young men jumped into the back of strangers' trucks to hitch a joy

ride through town. The wild, happy night slowly calmed down, as happy families went home to rest and review the festivities. Congratulations Jordan on such an achievement to celebrate for years to come. ■

*Sweet taste of victory; from euphoria to hysteria*

Continued from page 1

tics as the "national pastime" in the Arab world and with all its glory and fanfare, it has given leaders and subjects alike something to bind them together again.

Years of political setbacks and military defeats have driven people away from politics. Sports became the only available venue where people could practice politics—safely.

For an outsider it would seem that we had just won the World Cup. Processions that never end, firing live ammunition into the air, total and spontaneous chaos in the streets. Forget about the national agenda for a while; forget about the peace process and the stalemate talks between the Palestinians and the Israelis; and forget, if you can, about the economic situation and the Euro-Mediterranean partnership. This is a sweet dream and people don't want to wake up.

But eventually they will have to. Like all of our "victories" today, they are short-lived. Sure this victory will sink deep into the public psyche, until the next match. But if we learn to settle our political score in the playgrounds, then it will be all right.

Unfortunately it will not be that simple. Jordanian fans were hit with flying missiles by Syrian fans when Jordan scored its only goal. Lebanese crowds supported Jordan's team against Syria. Who knows? Will political ties with Syria, already on the edge, be affected by the Jordanian win? And what about the precarious process of restoring ties with Kuwait? Will it be affected by the popular and unashamed celebration of our victory in Amman's streets?

It's a lesson in political psychology and in overcoming national inhibitions and frustrations. It's also a good therapy—but not a lasting one. Just imagine if the Jordanian football team was to defeat the Israeli team; or worse if the opposite took place. In the end it is a zero-sum game; no real winners. No one had thought of substituting politics with sports. The phenomenon just evolved out of decades of military defeats, political frustration and national insecurity in the real world. Now the challenge is to separate the two things again; to go back to the original and noble theme of healthy competition for the sake of sports.

And in the end Jordanians have to return to the real world; where winners are judged by their political and economic excellence. The euphoria, or rather hysteria, of our recent athletic victories has uncovered a deep seated yearning for national pride. In the process many innocent people fell dead or injured because of stray bullets fired in jubilation. Those senseless killings and injuries are a reminder that our celebrations have at times crossed the boundaries and turned into madness.

The challenge now is to transform this new found energy, this untamed euphoria, into something that lasts so that we can get used to the sweet taste of victory. ■

## Turkey's famous 'madam' brags on as prostitution flourishes in Turkey

Continued from page 1

tered prostitutes is 2,376. In addition, there is a sizable group of unlicensed prostitutes, mostly women who have sneaked in from the neighboring countries of the former Soviet Union.

"Despite anything you might hear, the women at these places don't have other choices," said Canan Arin, a lawyer who works on behalf of women and women's rights issues. "They come when they are very young. They hide what they are doing. They generally have a man who they say is their husband, but usually he is really a pimp."

In recent years, Turkey's certified prostitutes have won several crucial battles. In 1990, the Turkish Parliament repealed a long-standing law under which the abduction or rape of a prostitute was punished only two-thirds as severely as the abduction or rape of any other woman.

Also, prostitutes and their advocates waged a campaign to be added to the nation's social security system, paying in a portion of their wages so that they would be eligible to receive a pension at retirement. A little more than a year ago, they were

successful, and were added to the law. One of the reasons that life remains difficult for prostitutes is that Turks have deeply mixed feelings about prostitution. Turkey, after all, is a deeply divided country, torn between its conservative Islamic tradition (98 percent of the country is Muslim) and its aggressively secular government, which sees itself as a modern, European-style democracy.

For Manukyan, the society's divisions became acute in 1995, when she offered a donation to Istanbul University's Cerrahpasa teaching hospital, as she has done in the past. To her dismay, an organization of doctors, urged on by an Islamic religious leader, called on the hospital to reject her offer, arguing that the \$36,000 she had offered to the neurology department had been earned in an immoral and anti-Islamic way.

In the end—to nobody's great surprise—the hospital overcame its moral qualms, and accepted the gift. Similarly, many politicians have tried to duck out of public events where she was present, but have rarely refused her money. ■

## Ross brings new US ideas amid flurry of diplomatic activity

Continued from page 1

ments. Wednesday's bombing will surely delay these talks further.

The United States has urged the parties to seek confidence-building steps to help rebuild the trust between them.

Diplomatic sources have said the United States is drafting an initiative to revive peace-making that includes an Israeli freeze on building new Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"The United States is prepared to do everything it can to ensure that the peace process continues on a sound and durable basis," White House spokesman Mike McCurry said.

Mubarak's meeting with Assad took place one day after Israel decided to suspend a permit to build 70 homes in East Jerusalem's Ras Al Amoud until early next month. No talks have been held between Syria and Israel since Netanyahu became prime minister in June last year.

President Assad said Tuesday he could see no hope for Middle East peace despite an apparent revival of diplomatic



His Majesty King Hussein receives Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy, Tuesday

activity in recent days.

"It is difficult for me to say there is hope in light of the current situation," Assad said at a joint news conference with President Mubarak.

"I don't think there is anyone who knows what is happening and could say there is hope...everyday we get a new proof that there is no hope," the Syrian leader said.

On his way back from the Damascus meeting, President Mubarak stopped in Amman for a few hours to brief King Hussein on his talks earlier in the day with President Assad. Relations between Amman and Damascus remain cool at best. The Egyptian leader was

also briefed by the King on his discussions earlier in the day with Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy.

"Discussions with President Mubarak were very good," King Hussein told reporters. "My discussions with Mr Levy were also very good and frank."

The King said Jordan welcomes Cairo's efforts to end the deadlock in the Arab-Israeli negotiations. "Egypt has played a very major role that only Egypt can play and our position has been a complementary one," the King added.

King Hussein, however, said he was optimistic that the Arab-Israeli negotiations

would resume. "We are very hopeful regarding the future."

He did not elaborate but officials say his optimism stems from his earlier briefing from Levy, in which Levy indicated a breakthrough in his deadlocked negotiations with the Palestinians.

After talks with Levy in Amman on Tuesday, Foreign Minister Fayez Al Tarawneh said the suspension of the Jerusalem housing project would advance stalled peace talks.

"We consider this as a confidence-building measure" that would hopefully reinstate the trust between the two sides and that would definitely put the Palestinian-Israeli talks on the right course, Tarawneh said.

He also cited as a cause for optimism the outcome of talks between Levy and PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath on Monday in which both agreed to renew talks on outstanding issues from a 1995 peace deal.

The two sides had agreed to talk again only about the considerable list of mutual promises already made and not kept. The larger issues of a political settlement between them are still reserved for "permanent status" talks that have yet to begin and are now more than a year behind schedule.

Palestinians are unwilling to proceed with those talks while Israel makes major changes in the population makeup of the West Bank and East Jerusalem, both captured from Jordan in the 1967 Middle East War. In particular, the two sides have found no answer to the dispute that began with Israel's ground-breaking for a new neighborhood to house 30,000 Jews in a section of East Jerusalem called Jabal Abu Ghneim.

According to officials and diplomats, the Clinton administration has proposed various forms of a freeze on new settlement construction as part of a package deal to resume full diplomatic talks.

Prime Minister Netanyahu, who has dispatched adviser Uzi Arad and cabinet secretary Danny Naveh to Washington, is unwilling to accept the US proposals.

Immediately after Naveh's return last week, Netanyahu summoned three top American Jewish leaders—Mel Solberg and Malcolm A. Hoenlein of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and Howard Kohr of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC)—in what aides described as an attempt to blunt pressures from the Clinton administration.

Netanyahu told them, one official said, that the US proposals are unacceptable and that it is important for the administration and Congress to know "what this government can do and what it cannot do."

Stymied on the larger problems, American mediators have focused on addressing the collapse of trust between Netanyahu and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. They have urged each side to begin with small confidence-building steps to restore a sense of shared purpose to their talks.

Levy and Shaath announced that working groups will resume meeting to resolve details of previous agreements on the opening of a Palestinian airport and seaport in Gaza, the creation of "safe passages" for Palestinians through Israeli territory between the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the release of thousands of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

Shaath also gave public and private assurances that the Palestinian Authority will act vigorously against violence directed at Israel. He did not mention the rebuilding of previously close ties between Israeli and Palestinian security establishments, but it has been the Israeli position that such intelligence-sharing is essential to block terrorist plans.

But PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat is less impressed.

"This was agreed upon one and a half months ago and up until now nothing has happened," he told reporters in Hebron.

Arafat had problems closer to home Tuesday when a panel of Palestinian lawmakers investigating corruption urged him to fire his entire cabinet and put at least two ministers suspected of wrongdoing on trial. (See related story)

It specifically recommended trial for Civilian Affairs Minister Jamil Al Tarifi and Planning Minister Nabil Shaath on suspicion of corruption and misuse of power. Both ministers denied the charges. ■

## Weeklies declare victory—almost

Continued from page 1

"will have to dig for a qualified person."

In a solidarity campaign with the press, particularly the critical ones, several Jordanian opposition personalities formed a national committee to help two weeklies: both *Al Mithaq* (Charter) weekly and *Al Majd* (Glory) weekly. The national committee is composed of Laith Shbeilat, president of the Engineers' Association, Lower House opposition deputies Toujan Faissal and Ba'athist Khalil Haddadin and Former Minister of Information Hani Khassawneh among others.

*Al Mithaq*, which has ceased publication last month, has found outside investors. According to Nabeel Hattar, the director of *Al Mithaq*, the paper will increase its capital to JD

300,000 or more by the end of this month. Hattar, who was proved not guilty by State Security Court on *lese majeste* charges, will hold the post of Chief Editor. Hattar is strongly critical of government policies, and is considered as an ultra-nationalist since, and his paper is seen as a platform of the so-called Jordanian National Movement. The new *Al Mithaq* Company will offer subscription shares by the end of this month.

However, the management of *Al Majd* is betting on new political developments which could lead to at least a freeze in the new Press and Publications Law. "We are optimistic that there will be some political developments which will halt the press law," said Fahd Al Rimawi, editor-in-chief and

publisher of *Al Majd* weekly (Nasserite), another strong independent opposition paper. "We have been offered financial support by some Jordanian personalities, but we said no thanks."

*Al Urdun* (Jordan) weekly is expected to readjust its finances before 15 August. According to *Al Urdun*'s publisher and Chief Editor, Mr Mousa Kilani, his paper is prepared to comply with measures of the law.

Other weeklies, however, were unfortunate. *Al Hadath* (the event) weekly failed till now to find an exit out of the finance or the editors dilemma.

*Hawadeth Al Sa'a*, and *Akhbar Al Usbu* are also facing difficulties in that regard, but expect to find a exit.

However, some weeklies have already gone under, as a result of the new Press and Publications Law. *Abd Rabo*, a sarcastic weekly closed its offices as its editors believe that the new press law does limit their freedom of expression. ■

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# JORDAN

**W E E K**



***An unconventional  
report on Jordanian  
news and views edited  
by Marwan Al Asmar***

## Shooting at the UJ

It seems that this is the week of shooting in the air. Although it sounds sarcastic, this is a deadly serious subject (See Window on Jordan). Four students were injured after being shot by another at the University of Jordan. Witnesses said that the student started firing in one of the halls at the Humanities Department of the Faculty of Arts. It appeared later that the shooting happened after an argument with one of the other students who was in the hall. It is said that a number of female students also in the hall at the time fell unconscious.

## In the air

■ I'm glad it does not happen every day! People all over country literally went wild after our Sunday's football win against Syria. They have the right to celebrate and be joyous, after all, we don't win every day. As soon as the match ended, guns were taken out and people began shooting in the air. Hand guns, rifles and the rest of the paraphernalia were out there all shooting, going on and on till well past mid-night. Again there is nothing wrong with that, but there was a very heavy price to pay. Over 15 people were hit on that fateful night because of flying bullets in the human alone. Whether you like it or not, stray bullets was the name of the game, causing injuries and deaths in Al Shuhada, Al Nassir, Al Hashimi, Zahran, Sweileh, Jabal Al Husn, Al Qwasmei, Al Ashrafyia, Al Muhajarin and Jabal Al Zuhri.

**Getch you!**

■ **Twelve** cases against the press have been filed in court since the new Press and Publications Law became operative. There are three cases against Al Arabi *Al Yaum*, the Arabic daily that only began publishing in May. Its Chief Editor Taher Al Adwan is now trying to sort these out. There are two cases against *Al Sabeel* and one against *Al Mithaq*. Ruba Karasneh's article about Jordan's water rights vis-a-vis Israel made the Ministry of Water very upset. *Al Ahali* is also in the dock. Also there are other cases against *Al Sayad*, *Al Bilad* and *Al Majd*. Although the case against *Al Majd* was before the new law came into effect.

## Dakamseh gets life and that's final

■ Ahmed Dakameh's sentence is final. He received life imprisonment and that means life. The Joint Chiefs of Staff, Field Marshal Abdel Hafez Merai Al Kaabneh, the one with the power to commute the sentence, upheld the military court's decision. Dakameh will now begin his life sentence. According to his defence lawyer, Hussein Mijali, who visited the soldier after Kaabneh's decision, said Dakameh was in high spirit. Mijali now expects the soldier who was stripped of his rank, to be moved from the military reform center in Zerga to a civilian one. On another level seven of Dakameh's close relatives have been set free by the security forces. They were held in custody having taken part in a demonstration after hearing about the sentence. Irbid Governor Kaftan Al Mijali rejected news reports that local police surrounded Dakameh's village, Ebdir, or even imposed a curfew on its

people.

**Muslim Brotherhood stand**  
**■** Oops, we have a problem, or do we? The Muslim Brotherhood's decision to boycott the coming parliamentary elections this autumn sent shivers up the spine of the government though, apparently not the Prime Minister, Dr Abdel Salam Al Majali. A tall sturdy figure, he doesn't seem to be effected at all. Indeed his recent trips abroad are designed to show a more forthright Jordanian foreign policy and could be a deliberate move to shift emphasis from the local scene. But in all honesty, the

The Brotherhod's decision has far-reaching implications. If it doesn't put up candidates then a sizable majority of the electorate wouldn't vote in the next elections. Furthermore, a good deal of the opposition parties seem to be following suit and not participating. That could produce a farcical elections, certainly not a situation that the government wants to happen. And it is obvious that many of its top level thinkers are busily drawing up alternative strategies to avoid what could become an impending fiasco.

The first of these is to submit to the minimum demands of the Islamists. Although the government initially rejected it out of hand as something that infringes on its sovereignty, it now seems that the government would be prepared to invite international observers to monitor the elections. But hold on a minute. Is this true? Well apparently it was at the beginning of the week, when Interior Minister was quoted as saying that the government would be willing to have international observers. However, later on the minister was less forthcoming. He

In its pending dialogue with the government, it is likely to push for far more. Its demands for the abrogation of Jordan's peace treaty with Israel is an impossible demand and they would likely be flexible on that if the government submits to its other demands which is reforming the electoral law and doing something about the Press and Publications Law. If an accommodation on these could be reached then business could once again start between the government and Islamists.

Contrary to what many seem to think the door is still wide open. After all, there are moderates like Ishaq Al Farhan, Bassam Al Omoush, and Abdallah Al Akialeh who are not so happy with what's happening inside the Islamic movement. They however, have their hands tied unless there is a genuine initiative from the government. The ball is in the governments court!

## ***UN workshop to review elimination of discrimination against women***

**THE IMPACT of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in Jordan** will be reviewed in a workshop organized by the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Gender on 4 August 1997 at the Royal Cultural Center. The task force is comprised of nine Amman-based United Nations agencies—ESCSWA, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNRWA, WFP and WHO.

The one-day workshop aims to raise awareness of CEDAW in Jordan and report on the Jordanian experience in implementing it. The workshop will also highlight the reservations Jordan has expressed towards specific articles of the convention and explore potential national mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of CEDAW.

The Government of Jordan signed the CEDAW in December 1992. The law ratifying the convention was promulgated in 1993.

The Government of Jordan in August of 1992 that women have not been equal to men in the Jordanian parliament. Nevertheless, Jordan continues to regard those clauses of the constitution as non-binding because they either contradict the national law or the Islamic Shari'a law. These clauses are the national law which proclaim equal rights to men and women with respect to nationality of their children and which give them freedom to choose their residence. The third clause which Jordan still considers non-binding is one which grants women equality in marriage and its dissolution, responsibility as a parent and the right to faculty name and profession. ■



*His Majesty King Hussein receives Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Tuesday, upon his arrival to Jordan for a short visit . The two leaders discussed the peace efforts to reactivate the stalled Middle East peace process. The President's trip, which followed a visit to Syria, was a "continuation of the efforts that Egypt is exerting to boost peace," King Hussein told reporter at Alia International Airport.*

*Omar Bilal of  
the Royal Falcons*  
**Jordan**  
**mourns loss**  
**of top ace**

**AMMAN (Star)**—The life of one of Jordan's most celebrated aerobatics pilot came to a tragic end Saturday in Belgium. Capt. Omar Hani Bilal, solo display pilot in the Jordanian Royal Falcons Aerobatics team, was performing a stunt when he apparently lost control of his Extra 300 single-engine airplane which crashed into a Red Cross tent less than a 100 meters from a public grandstand near Ostende where an international airshow was being held.

The 30-year-old pilot and eight spectators on the ground died as the plane exploded into a ball of fire. At least 58 other people were injured, some of them seriously.

Capt. Bilal's death has shocked Jordanians especially those familiar with his exceptional achievements. His Majesty the King expressed his grief over the late Bilal's death and conveyed his condolences to the

The Jordanian fighter pilot turned aerobatics pilot was married but had no children. He joined the Royal Falcons in 1992 after graduating with honors from the Royal Air Force Academy, which he joined when he was 17. Of his colleagues at the internationally renowned Royal Falcons and his competitors in other international teams, Bilal was a true model of excellence as an aerobatics pilot. He had helped put Jordan's name on the top by representing his country and winning in international competitions.

His awards include the international championship award from Belgium in 1994, best solo display pilot in England's Big Thunder Air Show and best aerobatics pilot in Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg in 1995 and again in 1996. This year he repeated his victories in England and Germany. He had begun participating in solo competitions in 1994. He felt he was getting close to his life's dream, which is to win the world champion-

The four-plane team has been representing Jordan in many international airshows and competitions ever since it was formed in 1976. Until his sudden death this week, the Royal Falcons comprised 40 members, five of which are pilots led by Omar Al-Jarrah.

The team next assignment was to participate in shows later this year in Turkey and Italy. Jordan's distinguished captain also won the Al Hussein Silver Medal for Excellence.

His Majesty, King Hussein had expressed his deepest sorrow to the family of Captain Omar Bilal. He personally visited them at their home, a gesture which was much appreciated by the bereaved family. Later, King Hussein conveyed his condolences to the members of the Jordanian Royal Falcons and the Royal Jordanian Air

The body of Capt. Bilal, which was brought back from Belgium on Monday, was carried by his colleagues in the Royal Jordanian Air Force all the way from the Royal Guard Mosque to the Royal Ceme-

His funeral was attended by members of the Royal Family, Chief of the Royal Court, several government officials, high ranking officers, and by his colleagues in the Jordanian Royal Falcons team, and the Royal Jordanian Air Force.

Belgian King Albert II also presented his condolences to the members of the Royal Falcons.

It will be some time, if ever, before the true cause of the crash will be known. Bilal was an experienced and capable pilot, respected by his peers all over the



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## Reflecting the Change.



*The International School*  
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## ANNOUNCES

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## Lurie's NewsCartoon



## Our Say...

### Coming a full circle

WEDNESDAY'S SUICIDE bomb attacks in a West Jerusalem market, which left scores dead and injured, come in the wake of intensive diplomatic activity aimed at relaunching the stalled Middle East peace process. The flurry of diplomatic contacts included a Palestinian-Israeli decision to re-engage in limited peace talks; the visit by President Mubarak of Egypt to Damascus and Amman on Tuesday and Israeli Foreign Minister's one-day visit to Amman and his meeting with King Hussein, and the anticipated visit to the region by US Middle East envoy Dennis Ross. The attacks have succeeded in cutting short the newly found momentum. Mr Ross' visit has been postponed for few more days and during these days much could happen.

The perpetrators of the bomb attacks may have succeeded in their short-term goal; that is to waste any opportunity to breathe life into the frail political process. Those extremists are to be found on both sides of the fence. In the past weeks Jewish settlers have gone out of their way to challenge and intimidate Palestinians in Gaza, Hebron and Jerusalem.

In the absence of political dialogue, Jewish extremists have managed to impose their own agenda on the Israeli government, opening the way for the reversal of the peace process and the agreements that had resulted from it.

Extremists on the Arab side have also been at work. Their agenda too coincides with that of Jewish right-wingers. But while Israel's peace partners have been working to harness militant forces at home, the Israeli government has been doing its best to unleash the evil forces of Jewish settlers and religious right.

It is difficult to point out all those responsible for Wednesday's carnage. In an ironic twist of fate, Israel's hardliners stand to gain the most from yet another surge in violence and counter-violence.

They have warned their government time and again that they will not allow it to honor agreements made under the former labor government.

The United States, which was about to dispatch its envoy to the region, has contributed by its indifference, bias and one-sided policies to the rise in frustration and anxiety in the Middle East today. His Majesty, the King spoke Wednesday about this rising tide which in the end is driving the region towards bloody confrontation.

To defuse this time-bomb, which keeps blowing in our faces every time there seems to be a window of opportunity for the peacemakers to make a come back, the Israeli government will have to take its share of responsibility by stemming the growing influence of its own hardliners and militants.

Netanyahu's short-sighted policies of appeasing his militant supporters at the expense of the peace camp will only result in further killings.

It is obvious that we have come a full circle since the election of Netanyahu more than a year ago. Today the peace process is dying while the Likud-led government has failed to provide its citizens with security and peace as promised. So where do we go from here? ■

By Dima Toukan

JORDAN'S STRATEGIC location will not suffice to make her into a competitive nation. Though governmental efforts have to be lauded, the jaded economy has not been fully able to deliver improved living standards to the population. The country is still lagging behind in exports, private investment, labor productivity and in managing natural resources sustainably. We have rightly started by acknowledging that our policies are ill suited to the global economy, but we still lack a basic conception of what makes the Jordanian citizen and the Jordanian product competitive with those of other nations.

How well an economy performs is not an end in itself. The same can be said of international trade whose cardinal goal is to increase the ability of people to consume. Measuring this ability is determining the standard of living of the people. On 6 July, and in an article in the *Jordan Times*, Dr Fahed Al Fanek wrote of a structural phenomenon premising that a high rate of growth of the gross domestic product does not necessarily translate into an improvement of the population's standard of living. The reason was said to be that Jordan is presently implementing an economic adjustment program which, *inter alia*, curbs private consumption by which standard of living is measured.

This argument seemed to square well with that of an article by Michael Porter of the Harvard Business School which was my own muse for this present article. Porter wrote about The Competitive Advantage of Nations.

In his article, he expounded a theory positing that the most important target, and if I may add duty, of a nation around which all other goals orbit is to ameliorate the standard of living of its citizens. The ability to do so hinges on productivity in which the nation's labor and capital are deployed. Productivity (the value of a unit of output produced by a unit of labor or capital) de-



pend on the quality and features of a product and the efficiency with which it is produced. To be competitive at the national level is to sustain an increasing productivity. Consequently, Jordan's strategic location which often causes the country to be dubbed the crossroads or bridge between three continents is not enough to enable us to compete!

With a free trade area envisaged with the European Union in the year 2010, we also have to keep in mind that international trade and foreign investment can both improve our productivity as well as hamper its improvement. Our national policies can enable national productivity to rise by allowing us to specialize in those industries where our companies are more productive and to import where our companies are less productive.

At the same time, international trade and foreign investment can threaten productivity growth. This takes place because our products cannot rise to meet international standards of productivity. To overcome this problem, the concentration should be on those sectors and industries which are technology and skill intensive so as to promote high and increasing productivity. If we are unable to compete in a range of high-

tion's standard of living. In other words, the issue is not increasing exports or creating jobs, but rather the type of exports and jobs.

Porter maintains that international advantage is concentrated in a few industries or segments of industries. Concentrating on the economy as a whole will only help to deplete our limited resources. For example, why not entertain the idea that trying to promote agriculture in Jordan is not a very good idea in itself. It will be extremely hard to achieve competitiveness in this sector for so many reasons foremost among them is our water shortage problem. To reach a high standard of living, only exports which are able to compete internationally must be promoted.

Porter's main postulation is that sustaining productivity growth, necessitates that an economy continuously upgrade itself through innovation. This is simply the art and talent of presenting at one time the best of services or products which no one else is able to present. Innovation does not call for major changes or technological breakthroughs. Its spectrum ranges

from adding a few desirable features to a product, to producing the same product more efficiently.

The other side of the coin and at the receiving end is the local consumer. His own taste must be upgraded. Demanding buyers are able to pressure companies to innovate faster. The home market is then able to send companies clear signals of its demands and to anticipate changes in the demand within the international market.

What the Harvard Professor means to say is that classical theory of comparative advantage calling for economies to concentrate on segments or industries which utilize as inputs those factors of production they possess in abundance, is being sidestepped by another theory which calls for continuous innovation and upgrading of those specific segments or industries which possess an international advantage. So why not finally consider that 'national prosperity is created, not inherited'!

Dima Toukan is a Jordanian researcher and writer specializing in international relations.

## Letters to the Editor

### Interesting phenomenon

To the Editor,  
Stephen Brannon's article entitled "Picnic culture hits the road". *The Star* 24 July, takes me back to Cairo where on any Friday one could find families picnicking in the center parkway between the east and west lanes of the road leading to the airport. Of course, this could be quite a dangerous situation as one had to cross at least one lane of traffic to get to the parkway. It is quite an interesting phenomenon.

Bonnie J. Connors  
University of Texas  
Austin, TX  
bonniec@mail.utexas.edu

### Abused cars bad for the economy

To the Editor,  
I have read with interest Osama El-Sherif's article on abused cars. *The Star* 15 June. I must admit it was an impressive description of a situation resulting from high import taxes on automobiles. Such a high tax will not only result in high prices for a daily necessity but it has a negative impact on the country's economy as a

whole.

Contrary to what economic policy makers claim that high import duties will protect the economy through reducing the number of automobiles coming into the country and losing hard currencies, the economy loses more hard currency in maintaining the junk you mentioned in your article in one hand and flooding the country with low quality cars. I am sure the local market is now full of cars coming from inexperienced and irreputable manufacturers, such cars with short life expectancy will end up costing Jordanians more. If I may give you an example...we export American made cars to various parts in the Middle East...a Chevrolet Caprice with full options...say 1994 model, will cost in this market around \$6000 (about 4000 JDs).

Such cars may run as much as 250,000 miles (400,000 Km) without the need to look at the engine. Any complaint on gasoline? Well the new technology makes these cars run at 29 - 30 miles/gallons (about 225 km/20 liters).

Joe Hickmann  
esen@rwbell.net  
Esen Group, LLC

# Qatar determined to go ahead with Mena summit

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, has restated his determination to live up to international obligations by holding the Middle East and North African Economic Summit (Mena) in Doha in November. In an interview published in *Kuwait's Al Rai Al Am* newspaper, the Emir said Qatar is determined to press ahead with the summit. Excerpts follow:

On the second anniversary of your accession, how do you evaluate the policy which you have adopted locally, regionally, on the Arab and international levels?

We are satisfied with the policy which we adopted on the local, regional, Arab and international levels. Locally, we spare no effort to set up the sound basis for the modern state. We concentrate on making optimal use of God's bounty to us, the oil and gas. In this regard, we follow a studied, clear policy. I think that we have gone a long way in this direction. Further, we focus on education which we consider as one of the most important elements that will help us in carrying out our plans toward a better future for our people. Development needs enlightened minds, and here comes the role of education. Besides, we are proceeding slowly towards popular participation so that the citizen will take part in carrying out the responsibility of his country.

On the regional level, we are for closer relations among Gulf countries. Security and stability in the region needs clear and sound relations among countries. Hence, we follow a policy of co-operation with all, to the benefit of our common interests.

On the Arab level, our policy is clear: we are for real Arab solidarity and for the peace process to restore the rights that people have been deprived of. We also support our Palestinian brethren and their persistent efforts to recover their legitimate rights, which are recognized by the international community, including their right to holy Jerusalem and to an independent Palestinian state.

On the international level, we thank God that our relations are good and we deal with all on the basis of mutual interest and co-operation to lay down the sound basis for international relations in order to protect the security and stability of our region. We firmly believe that such relations must be based on the non-interference of others.

On the international level, we thank God that our relations are good and we deal with all on the basis of mutual interest and co-operation to lay down the sound basis for international relations in order to protect the security and stability of our region. We firmly believe that such relations must be based on the non-interference of others.

Our decisions have been the fruit of study and were based on the conviction that freedom of information was necessary to support the process of development. We do not expect our social life, our way of thinking

norms. I do not think that an information blackout should be imposed on him. The citizen must be allowed to hear and watch what is happening around him. We have a great trust in him.

Do you expect the consultative experience in Qatar to evolve toward an election-parliamentary formula, and would the Kuwaiti experience be a useful example?

Our recent decision to conduct municipal elections was based upon our conviction that there is a need for popular participation. I hope that this stage will be conducive to advanced democratic developments. We also believe in the participation of individuals in the development process. Concerning the Kuwaiti experience as an example, I think that every country has its own circumstances. This does not mean that we cannot learn from the democratic experience of Kuwait, which is a successful one...an experience that we respect and appreciate. And popular participation is coming.

It is said that Qatar does not stand in line with other Gulf states. It has strong relations with Iraq, Iran and Israel, whereas the Gulf consensus is for slow development of relations with these. What is the position of Qatar's relations with the three countries at present, especially after the Arab foreign ministers decision to freeze the normalization process with Israel?

The position of Qatar is very clear. As concerning Iraq, we support the international resolutions. We supported our brethren in Kuwait when it was occupied. Now we support attempts to lift the suffering of the Iraqi people. The Iraqi people deserve assistance from their brethren in these difficult circumstances.

Iran is a Muslim state and a neighbor with which we have good relations. Iran has a regional role that cannot be ignored. We hope that Iran-Gulf relations will improve to the benefit of the region.

Concerning Israel, we welcomed, as did Arab countries which participated in the Madrid Conference, the principles upon which the conference was based and which led to the peace process. We adopted the initiative of opening a dialogue with Israel. Qatar has announced the freezing of the opening of a trade office in Tel Aviv

Continued on page 6

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### Publisher & Editor-in-Chief

Osama El-Sherif

Managing Editor

Dr Marwan Al Asmar

Editorial Team

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Mahmoud Fares (General Administration), Qurban Hussain (Production),

Ali Nimer (Accountant), Zaki Qurban (Layout), Fouad Jbour (Archive)

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هكذا من الأصل



## Business scene

The number of operating firms in the Amman Industrial City reached 340 at a JD 516.8 million. A report by the Industrial Estates Corp., shows that the engineering sector, which includes metal and electrical industries, ranks first with 80 firms. The investment volume stands at JD 140 million, creating 3279 job opportunities. The investment growth rate in all sectors is 14% compared with that of 1995. The report also shows that during 1996 some industrial establishments expanded at a volume of JD 3.6 million creating 206 jobs.

Al Hassan Industrial City in Irbid, attracted 53 industries at a capital of more than JD 52 million. This created 1822 jobs. In 1996 the number of the new firms in Al Hassan Industrial City was eight creating more 465 job opportunities. Last year, the number of personnel in Amman and Al Hassan industrial cities reached 15338. The report shows that the number of the Arab and foreign investments in Amman Industrial City is 71 firms at a capital of JD 132.2 million which created 2600 job opportunities. This number in Al Hassan Industrial city reached 14 firms at JD 28.7 million creating 1238 job opportunities. However, the Industrial Estates Corp., has since 18 April last year begun an ambitious development plan for the year 2000 to establish more industrial cities in Jordan.

Moving on to reorganize and put their house in order the United Arab Insurance Company agreed to merge with the Al Yarmouk Insurance and Re-Insurance Co. The merger will be finalized by 1 October. This merger will make the combined capital of the two companies JD 2 million. However, other sources expect the shareholder's rights to increase to JD 4 million.

The 2nd Comprehensive Housing Exhibition is taking place this week at the Amman International Car Show. About 37 Jordanian companies are taking part. On display there are construction and housing materials, including central heating and air conditioning equipment, kitchen ware, furniture, tile and ceramics.

# Jordanian capital abroad: Can it be repatriated

AMMAN (Star)—The issue of capital flight outside the country is today the center of interest by experts.

Government officials stress that urgent steps need to be taken to reverse this trend, attract investments and employ it for the benefit of the economy.

According to latest statistics, the size of Jordanian investments abroad is about \$6 billion. But some argue that there are still many undisclosed accounts of a large number of Jordanians abroad.

But Deputy Prime Minister for Development Affairs, Dr Jawad Anani estimates Jordanian investments outside the Kingdom in foreign banks to be between \$3-4 billion. However, this is contradicted by Minister of Labor Dr Saleh Khasawneh who relying on American estimates puts the figure at \$6 billion.

Another official figure is presented. Planning Ministry's Secretary General Dr Abdel Razzak Bani Hani puts Jordanian external deposits at \$5 billion.

Those officials, though, differ on defining the real size of the "capital flight" all agree that a way must be found to get

these investments back.

Some experts argue that these funds fled from Jordan because of many local and regional factors such as:

■ The unstable situation, due to the no-peace no war state in the region.

■ The fluctuating economic conditions and lack of attractive investment climate and incentives.

■ The lack of more economic openness.

However, they continue to say that all the above mentioned were temporary and don't exist anymore.

They stress that Jordan has been following a successful economic restructuring program since 1989 in co-operation with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Jordan will soon launch a new economic era and by next year, will start to reap the fruits of this program to achieve greater prosperity.

This indeed, experts argue, could be a motive to get migrant capital back. But the question is how can this be brought about?

The solution is simply to get rid of routine measures, become more flexible, provide better facilities and let these

investors feel that their capital is safe and secure, according to Dr Anani.

Trade and Industry Minister, Dr Hani Al Mulki, says that we must have more openness, greater competition and minimal government intervention.

"If we speak about liberalization of prices, then we are encouraging capital to come back," Al Mulki says.

One of the main factors to attract outside

capital is to maintain political stability, and secure a high rate of profitability for investors coupled with the lowest risk, Mr Khasawneh says.

But still he puts the blame on the attitude of the investor. This means that even if



there is an encouraging and attractive climate and the investor continues to be unconvinced, then this is useless.

This implies that capital goes where profitability is warranted at the lowest level of risk.

Mr Bani Hani, who is also a professor of economics at Yarmouk University points to another important factor. He attributes the flight of local capital to the incoherence or imbalance between the course of the social infrastructure and the legislative, financial and economic one. This hindered the first course from coping with local, regional and global economic developments.

However, Bani Hani is optimistic that all these obstacles can be removed and the migrant capital can be restored in the light of reaping the dividends of the economic restructuring programme.

However, prominent economic expert Dr Fahed Al Fanek tackles the issue from a different angle.

He says that the stated figure of \$6 billion is exaggerated. Al Fanek adds that the real size of Jordanian deposits in foreign banks is no more than \$2 billion, based on schedules published by the IMF.

But Al Fanek argues that these investments cannot be considered as "flights," as they originally do not go out from Jordan.

There are about 300,000 Jordanian expatriates working outside (in the Gulf or Europe...) and if added to their families they increase to 800,000. This means that about one fifth of Jordanian inhabitants are outside," Al Fanek argues.

Of course, those have big accounts abroad and a good example of this is the temporary prosperity which the country experienced after 1990, when returnees were withdrawing sums from their deposits abroad, just before the 1993 economic recession.

However, Al Fanek says that attracting these investments or at least some of them, is not impossible though it is difficult. What is needed from Jordan is to compete with European countries and others in order to restore its funds as deposits for non-residents.

## Local firm becomes representative of DDB International

IDEA (Fikra) INTERNATIONAL for Advertising and Design Co., and DDB International signed a representative agreement. DDB International is the fourth biggest advertising company in the world, and the first in the USA.

The company, which has 11,000 employees, makes an annual turnover of \$10 billion and has 83 offices all over the world.

The company has been awarded the first prize for creativity by international advertising companies for the last six years.

IDEA International was established in January this year with top level advertising staff. Mrs Rama Hamarneh Jelich, the first woman, who has worked for the company and the first to have the title of Creative Director in Jordan, and Mrs Reema Karaam are responsible for the creative department.

Both worked in design and advertising for the last 12 years. In a short time Fikra was able to achieve a great deal gaining the confidence of the biggest companies in Jordan. It now has accounts with companies like Jabri, and Jordan Clothes Co., CIC.

However, the importance of this agreement stems from the fact that DDB believes that the employees of its sister companies in any country



should also be nationals of that country.

Mr Suleiman Matouq, general manager of Idea International says that DDB's excellent experience in advertising alongside with Fikra's experi-

ence and enthusiasm will all lead to a real change in advertising in Jordan, that is a new creative achievement in this field.

## BritishBank launches its guaranteed Capital Investment Bonds

BRITISHBANK announced the launch of its Guaranteed Capital Investment Bond (GCIB). The Bond offers investors the opportunity to share in the growth of the European and Asian stock markets while at the same time delivering a high degree of security over the original amount invested.

John Pascoe, CEO, said, "GCIB offers a choice between 'European Growth' and 'Asian Growth'. The European Growth option carries a full 100 percent capital

guarantee reassuring investors that whatever amount is invested, they will receive the full amount invested back at the end of investment period, whatever the performance of

markets comprising equal weightings of the French, German and Swiss stock markets with 100 percent of the growth of the basket index added to the 100 percent capital guarantee.

Alternatively, investors can choose the Asian growth option which carries a 95 percent capital guarantee and links investment to a "basket" of Asian stock markets comprising equal weighting of the Hong Kong and Singapore stock markets. Investors will receive 75% of the growth of

the basket index added to the 95% capital guarantee.

Investment will be for a three year fixed term (36 months) and the minimum investment is \$5,000 for each option.

GCIB will be available for a strictly limited period closing on 14 August 1997. This will be the first issue of the bond available in Jordan but the sixth to be issued in the region. GCIB I, which linked investment to the performance of the US stock market via the S&P 500 Index for US dollar investors and the UK stock market via the FT-SE 100.

Index for sterling investors is due to mature during the launch period of GCIB VI on 25 July 1997. With the growth stabilisation feature included within these Bonds which averages the level of the Indices during the final 12 months of the term to determine the final return, US dollar investors may expect to receive a return of at least 55 percent in addition to the return of their full initial investment whilst the return for sterling investors will be at least 26 percent.

BritishBank is the largest and most widely represented international bank in the Middle East with 30 branches throughout the UAE, Oman, Bahrain, Jordan and Lebanon, an offshore banking unit in Bahrain and a representative office in Palestine.

The extensive regional coverage is enhanced by its associates, Saudi British Bank and the Egyptian British Bank. In addition to its Middle Eastern network the bank has branches in Mumbai, Trivandrum, and Baku, Azerbaijan. It also has Private Banking operations in London and Geneva.

**BritishBank**  
The British Bank of the Middle East

Foreign Exchange Wednesday, 30 July		
	Buy JD	Sell JD
US\$	0.7080	0.7100
£	1.1510	1.1568
DM	0.4124	0.4145
¥	0.4801	0.4825
₹	0.1227	0.1233
₪	0.5624	0.5652
₹	0.3667	0.3685
₹	0.0419	0.0421

## Stock Market Watch

Highest and lowest performing stocks in the Amman Financial Market				
SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jordan Rock Wool Industry</li> <li>Jordan Salpho Chemical</li> <li>Universal Oil Manufacturing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Woolen Industry</li> <li>National Chemical</li> <li>Jordan Commercial Facility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Chemical</li> <li>Best Investment Project</li> <li>Middle East Pharma.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Royal</li> <li>National Chemical</li> <li>Al-Rary Industry</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Woolen Industry</li> <li>National Chemical</li> <li>Jordan Salpho Chemical</li> <li>Nizak Industry</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arab-Sin Insurance</li> <li>National Chemical</li> <li>Jordan Kuwait Bank</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Woolen Industry</li> <li>Jordan Salpho Chemical</li> <li>Nizak Industry</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Union Bank</li> <li>Nizak Industry</li> <li>Bynara</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General Price Pointer</li> <li>Trade Volume</li> <li>Stock Volume</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General Price Pointer</li> <li>Trade Volume</li> <li>Stock Volume</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General Price Pointer</li> <li>Trade Volume</li> <li>Stock Volume</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General Price Pointer</li> <li>Trade Volume</li> <li>Stock Volume</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General Price Pointer</li> <li>Trade Volume</li> <li>Stock Volume</li> </ul>

## Business Chronicle

### Real estate market witnesses stable prosperity

TODAY, IT is the turn of the real estate sector. With little prospect for a massive upturn in the economy, it, more than any other sectors, is having a rough ride.

Since 1990, land prices in Jordan saw a sharp hike. Many returnees who came back from the Gulf (after the Gulf war) preferred to invest in buildings or houses. Some also invested their capital in development and industrial projects. This naturally affected land prices which increased sharply at that time. However, since 1995, interest in buying land weakened and most people opted to deposit their funds in banks, for the security of receiving a stable income, rather than running the risk of building or even sharing in a construction project.

So, land prices fluctuated. This of course, is mainly influenced by other regional developments. After the signing of the peace treaty between the Israelis and the Palestinians, the latter were hopeful of going back to their homeland and stay there. Some managed to stay, build and invest in certain projects.

During this time, land prices in Jordan slightly went down. But, in the light of Israel's hardline policy to block any further co-operation among the three main partners in peace (Jordan, Palestine and Israel), people tended to be more careful and uncertain about the fate of their investments in buildings or in land. However the government is always seeking outlets for many economic problems by embarking on measures to encourage local, Arab and foreign investments.

Investors see the prices, though seen as high by some observers, to be apt and encouraging compared with estate prices in the world.

It is most common to see construction movement concentrated in areas close to airports. The area situated between the capital and the Queen Alia Airport is expected to see a noticeable construction movement (including housing and commercial complexes), according to engineer Hazem Shaheen, director of the Philadelphia Group for Managerial Consultants. He added that this area today is the center for touristic investments such as hotels and clubs.

Some land dealers are also optimistic. They expect land prices in Aqaba to go up by 40 percent per annum. This is encouraged by the government's plan to transfer the city into a free trade zone.

The city will see a real estate boom which could consolidate its economic importance, not only in Jordan and the region, but also in the world.

The Public Housing and Urban Development Corp., is taking steps to reform the housing sector in order to give the private sector a more active role and hold joint ventures to build housing units for the less privileged. These measures also include amending the Rent Law which defines the relation between the owner and lodger.

The Second Housing Show which was opened lately is an opportunity for people to be directly acquainted with the latest construction techniques used in building housing units and for contractors and construction companies to promote their services and products.

Summer is a good time for this show, as the organizers are expecting a huge number of visitors to go to the event.

## Al Quds Co. established at \$100 million

THE FINAL creation of the Al Quds Construction and Investment (Holding) Co. was declared at a capital of \$100 million. Until last week, \$60 million of the capital was covered by 300 subscribers. This was announced in a meeting of its general assembly headed by the Chairman of the Arab Bank, Abdul Majeed Shoman.

The company is being established to finance real estate investment projects in Jerusalem and renew the city's buildings and archaeological sites. This step aims to counter the Judaization of the holy city and combat Israeli policy to dismantle the Islamic and Arab identity of Jerusalem.

A national gathering was convened in Amman last April to raise funds for the founding of the company. It was attended by Palestinian, Jordanian, Gulf and other Arab investors, who showed much enthusiasm for the idea.

Among the shareholders are: Abdul Majeed Shoman, Munib Al Masri, Haseeb Al Sabbagh, Sabeeh Al Masri and Saudi Prince Al Waleed Bin Talal.

Shoman expects the company's capital, if more Arab countries provide greater funds, to reach as high as \$500 million. He stressed the importance of the official declaration of the company, as it coincides with the new aggression on Jerusalem after the Israeli municipality approved a plan to build a new settlement in the heart of the holy city. This, according to Shoman, is a provocation to Arab and Islamic feelings.



(News Item: China's leading economic reformer ZHU RONGJI is favored to be the new prime minister of China when Li Peng steps down next March.)

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# Israel, Palestinians resume peace talks

By Barton Gellman

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM—Israeli and Palestinian negotiators announced a partial resumption of their broken-down talks last Monday after four months in which negotiations halted entirely.

Accompanied by a vigorous handshake between Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy and Palestinian Planning Minister Nabil Shaath, the announcement was the first hint of diplomatic movement since talks foundered in March.

Even so, it was a modest step. The two sides have agreed to talk again only about the considerable list of mutual promises already made and not kept. The larger issues of a political settlement between them are still reserved for "permanent status" talks that have yet to begin and are now more than a year behind schedule.

Palestinians are unwilling to proceed with those talks while Israel makes major changes in the population makeup of the West Bank and East Jerusalem, both captured from Jordan in the 1967 Middle East



War. In particular, the two sides have found no answer to the dispute that began with Israel's groundbreaking for a new neighborhood to house 30,000 Jews in a section of

East Jerusalem called Jabal Abu Ghneim by Arabs and now called Har Homa by Israeli Jews.

According to officials and diplomats, the Clinton adminis-

tration has proposed various forms of a freeze on new settlement construction as part of a package deal to resume full diplomatic talks. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who

has dispatched adviser Uzi Arad and cabinet secretary Danny Naveh to Washington, is unwilling to accept the US proposals.

Immediately after Naveh's return last week, Netanyahu summoned three top American Jewish leaders—Mel Solberg and Malcolm A. Hoenlein of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and Howard Kohr of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC)—in what aides described as an attempt to blunt pressures from the Clinton administration. Netanyahu told them, one official said, that the US proposals are unacceptable and that it is important for the administration and Congress to know "what this government can do and what it cannot do."

Stymied on the larger problems, American mediators have focused on addressing the collapse of trust between Netanyahu and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. They have urged each side to begin with small confidence-building steps to restore a sense of shared purpose to their talks.

Last Monday's meeting fit that mold.

In coming days, Levy and Shaath announced, working groups will resume meeting to resolve details of previous agreements on the opening of a Palestinian airport and seaport in Gaza, the creation of "safe passages" for Palestinians through Israeli territory between the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the release of thousands of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

Shaath also gave public and private assurances that the Palestinian Authority, which administers the self-governing portions of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, will act vigorously against violence directed at Israel. He did not mention the rebuilding of previously close ties between Israeli and Palestinian security establishments, but it has been the Israeli position that such intelligence-sharing is essential to block terrorist plans.

Monday's handshake followed weeks of quiet contacts in which Arafat gave Shaath, a dealmaker and conciliator, the central role, replacing for the moment his firebrand chief negotiator Saeb Erekat.

Levy told Shaath that his government will not permit construction now of still another new Jewish neighborhood in East Jerusalem, which the Jerusalem municipality approved last Thursday. The construction project at Ras Amoud, east of the Temple Mount and south of the Mount of Olives, was in any case suspended pending a legal appeal.

## Worries grow over Israeli religious groups



By Judy Dempsey

Mrs Avital Bar-Or takes the Number 5 bus in Jerusalem and knows she must sit at the back. The bus cuts through one of the city's most ultra-Orthodox districts, where segregation between men and women is the norm, even in certain shops.

An informal segregation has existed for some time on this route, with the Haredim, or ultra-Orthodox men, sitting in the front, the women at the back.

But in a recent decision, the transport ministry, headed by an Orthodox minister, introduced a pilot scheme in Bnei Brak, near Tel Aviv, whereby women must enter the bus only from the back and men from the front.

The scheme is soon to be implemented in certain parts of Jerusalem also.

"The Haredim requested this so that the women will not have to walk past the men," said Mr Avner Ovadia, of the transport ministry.

"The men will not have to see the women...I feel we have to give a service to the Haredim. They are the ones who use public transport the most," he said.

The decision has angered liberal groups. Ms Yael Dayan, a leading member of the opposition Labour Party, described the decision as "disastrous".

"The public buses are being segregated. If the Haredim want segregation they should have their own private buses and not impose this illegal act on public transportation. We must not allow the Haredim to monopolise our lives," she said.

Mr Yitzhak Kagan of Dan, the public bus network, insisted that the pilot projects would be confined to ultra-Orthodox districts, though non-religious people have to travel along these routes.

But academics believe that the bus segregation is symptomatic of a deepening polarisation in Israel.

"There is a real struggle taking place between the Haredim and the secular community," said Mr Moshe Lissak, sociology professor at the Hebrew University.

"It is growing all the time. The case of the buses shows how deep this trend is."

But the struggle over the identity of Israel is no longer confined to the country itself. With the religious parties making up a third of the cabinet led by Mr Benjamin Netanyahu, the prime minister, they have opened one of the most divisive of debates and one that is also affecting Jews worldwide.

They have tried to make it legally binding that only those Jews converted by an Orthodox Rabbi as opposed to a liberal Reform or Conservative Rabbi and who adhere to strict rituals of

dress, eating, marriage, and funerals, are real Jews in the diaspora, especially in the US, such a law would mean that many would lose all their rights in Israel since they would not be regarded as Jews in the eyes of the Orthodox.

Although Mr Netanyahu recently forged a temporary compromise on this issue, Jews in the US are no longer prepared to remain silent about the future direction of Israel.

Mr Stanley Gold, president of Shamrock Holdings and outgoing chairman of Koor, Israel's largest industrial conglomerate, said earlier this month that any change in the conversion status quo would move Israel from "a democracy to a theocracy."

"The ultra-Orthodox want to determine who can become a Jew would follow that could go down 'anything from driving on Shabbath to women's clothing to Big Macs, increasingly restricting the lifestyles of secular Israelis' while demeaning the ceremonies of other Jewish traditions."

Such developments are already taking place. Anyone driving a car along certain streets in Jerusalem during the Sabbath risks being stoned.

Any Reform Jews praying as a group close to the Wailing Wall, the Jews' holiest site, risk being beaten up and having excrement thrown at them by the Haredim, as happened last month.

As Mr Gold reminded his audience in Jerusalem, there was "no police investigation and not one member of the government condemned the behaviour. If the attackers had been Arab instead of Haredim, would the police and government officials behave in this same way? Of course not!"

US Jews believe Israel's secular community is too passive to the growing power of the Haredim.

They make up 10 percent of the population and receive \$2 billion a year from taxpayers to fund their schools and political organisations, even though they do not recognise the state of Israel or serve in the army.

"If the Israeli people do not rise up, these extremists will become more emboldened," said Mr Gold, arguing that "Jews and investors around the world will increasingly turn away. Unless you hold these Ayatollahs in check, Israel will lose the confidence of most outside investors," Mr Gold said.

This was one of the reasons behind Mr Netanyahu's decision to forge a temporary compromise over the conversion law. But Mr Gold's supporters believe the battle to protect and nurture Israel's democratic traditions has only begun.

Financial Times Syndication

## Algeria

# Top man, alive or dead?

By Roula Khalaf

THE MYSTERY over whether Mr Antar Zouabri, Algeria's most wanted terrorist, is alive or dead accurately reflects the confusion that surrounds information about the country's five-year-long period of political violence.

Local newspapers this week headlined news of a big army offensive which they said had cut off the 26-year-old man who is believed to lead Algeria's Islamist armed groups, known as the GIA.

Newswire services and one local paper, quoting unnamed security officials, reported last week that Mr Zouabri had been killed. Yet the Algerian government has not confirmed the stories, and people claiming to have ties to the GIA in London say reports of Mr Zouabri's death are fiction. This will become clear "in a couple of weeks," they say.

Algeria's army-backed government tightly controls security information, and while newspapers are periodically allowed to publish stories of atrocities and killings of members of armed groups, casualties among government security forces are never mentioned.

Stories in the mostly anti-Islamist local press often have some grounding in reality, and the information is often derived from security officials. But because reporters are often unable independently to check information, and competition over reports on violence is fierce, details can be unreliable or exaggerated. Reports that leaders of the GIA have been killed have often

emerged in newspapers, but later turned out to be untrue.

Reports that the Algerian army has this month launched a military campaign against armed groups in Hattaba, some 80km south-west of Algiers, have been confirmed by visitors to the region. Newspapers, however, have provided conflicting accounts of the number of deaths.

It is also impossible to confirm how many members of the armed groups have been surrounded. The forested mountain where the siege is taking place is on the edge of Blida province, which lies in the "triangle of death" where many massacres have taken place. The mountain is said to be the hideout of a group headed by Mr Zouabri, which the government blames for the killings.

The elimination of Mr Zouabri in this offensive would no doubt mark a coup for the Algerian authorities, who are never tired of claiming that the violence is firmly controlled, only to be faced with a flurry of civilian massacres and bomb explosions.

Some analysts say his death would also signal a move towards stabilisation of the Algerian conflict, which has already claimed more than 60,000 lives, especially since it follows the release of two leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), the party which was about to win the 1992 elections when they were cancelled by the army. The FIS has now taken a conciliatory line towards the authorities and has been calling for negotiations.

It has repeatedly condemned the acts

of the GIA, which it says are manipulated by the authorities, and claims that some of the massacres taking place in remote villages can be ascribed to reprisals and acts of banditry aiming to drive people off a fertile land.

There are two reasons why pinning too much hope for Algeria on Mr Zouabri's death, if confirmed, might be misleading.

First, he would be at least the sixth leader of the GIA to be replaced. Mr Zouabri took over as head of a main armed group only in July 1996, after Mr Djamel Zitouni, his predecessor, was killed by a rival armed group.

Second, so little reliable information is available on the GIA that it is not clear what Mr Zouabri actually controls. Analysts believe the GIA to be a nebulous collection of shadowy armed groups, that do not all respond to a single leadership. New names of groups appear periodically, only to disappear a few months later.

The government has promoted the idea of the GIA as feuding collection of disorganised groupings and says the escalation in violence in the past year can be attributed to internal struggles among various armed groups, who attack each other's families.

Yet, the government has also allowed newspapers this week to propagate the notion that the GIA was holding a "congress" in Hattaba to plan future strategy when it suddenly found itself under attack by the army.

Financial Times Syndication

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

Continued from page 4

following the Arab decision to freeze the normalization process with Israel. Now, after the Israeli government has changed its positive position towards the peace process, we urge the countries which adopted the peace process to take a more effective position to restore the process to the right path, taking into consideration the need to restore for our Palestinian brethren their full rights, and to preserve the Arab nature of Jerusalem which belongs to all Arabs and Muslims.

The decision to hold the Middle East and North Africa summit conference in Doha is irrevocable. Has Syria asked you to postpone the summit?

We are intent on fulfilling our international commitment as regards the holding of the MENA summit in Doha. But concerning our brethren in Syria, it is a fact that they have not taken part in the previous three summits. Their non-participation in the Doha MENA is a position that we understand well and respect.

You have stressed to President Bill Clinton that you will hold the summit. Did you also discuss with him the US role in pressuring Tel Aviv to effect a breakthrough in the peace process?

My discussions with President Clinton were very candid. At our meeting we exchanged views on a number of major issues of mutual interest including, of course, the Middle East peace process which has seriously deteriorated because of Netanyahu's misguided policies.

If Gulf countries boycotted the MENA summit in Doha, would you take retali-

# Qatar determined to go ahead with Mena summit

atory measures such as boycotting the next GCC summit in Kuwait?

Things must not be mixed up, the Gulf summits concern members of a regional organization that has its own foundations and traditions. But concerning the MENA summit, we are committed to holding it and we will not back down on our commitment.

In what way could Qatar play a role in normalizing Gulf-Iranian relations?

Neither Qatar nor any other country could play a role on behalf of another member of the GCC. The issue concerns all the Gulf countries individually and collectively. Each GCC member has its independent and sovereign policy. Hence none could act on behalf of another, whether with Iran or others.

As to whether Gulf-Iranian relations could be normalized, this hinges on the expression of good intent in words and deeds on both sides and on providing mutual trust that is based on mutual respect of sovereignty, independence and non-interference in internal affairs. In implementation of this, both sides must, before anything else, act seriously and in good faith to solve standing differences through peaceful means, dialogue, mediation or resorting to international adjudication. Then all problems will be easier and any impediments that block

the way of Gulf-Iranian relations could be overcome.

Are you ready for an initiative towards Iran to solve the problem of its occupation of the three UAE islands?

The State of Qatar has made an attempt in that direction, sponsoring a meeting in Doha between the two sides, in the hope that such a meeting could be the prelude to other bilateral encounters later on in order to solve their dispute. However, regrettably, nothing more has happened. We will not hesitate in participating in any efforts that could remove sources of tensions, and in maintaining peace and stability in the region.

Border disputes, as everybody knows, are still the thorniest issue hindering closer GCC ties. How far have the border negotiations between you and Saudi Arabia gone?

That is true. Border problems have everywhere been a major stumbling block in the way of joint action by concerned countries and have often posed a threat to their security and stability. This is, of course, applicable to GCC member states which suffer from such border disputes, left over by colonial powers.

We do hope that everyone will realize that we can attain our common objective of maintaining sound integrity

only by resolving these border disputes through a radical, just and lasting solution by peaceful means...

Observers of the Bahraini-Qatari dispute suggest that Doha seeks to trade land for security. Is it true?

Regardless of what observers or others say about our border disagreement with Bahrain, we do honestly and seriously work to settle this long-standing dispute for the common interest of both countries in particular and the interest of the Gulf region in general. We have finally reached the conclusion, as everybody knows, that we can resolve this border dispute best by referring it to the world's highest judicial authority, namely, the ICJ, which has now the final say in this issue.

You have, Your Highness, welcomed unity with Bahrain. The Bahrainis have also welcomed such unity. Are there serious steps in this direction? Or is it still sheer publicity? And how do you view the features of such unity?

I have previously mentioned that we welcome any step that brings us closer to unity with our Bahraini brothers, provided that peoples of both countries would have a say in any rapprochement leading to the unity, referred to in your question. We have suggested to our brothers in Bahrain to ex-

change ambassadors between the two countries, believing that such a step would help realize the desired rapprochement. But there is no response as yet.

Your Highness, do you stand for an integrated pan-Gulf unity? Is such a strategic issue tabled with your brothers the GCC leaders. If yes, where do you agree and where do you disagree?

I believe that pan-Gulf unity is a dream cherished by every GCC national and a noble objective to which everyone should aspire. But unity is a painstaking goal that requires hard work to achieve and solid foundations to be based on. Unity, I think, would be a fruit of exercises that bring peoples closer and harmonies their interests. Unity coming from the top is out-dated.

Gulf unity is inevitable, but I think that it will be preceded by establishing a number of democracies in the region. I mean the Gulf region and not to forget Yemen.

Your Highness, let's say unity is a thorny objective. Does Your Highness agree to another form of unity, such as having one GCC currency, one employment law, one social security system, one labour law and other similar common instruments?

If we want unity, we have

first to establish democracy. I personally favour a common GCC currency and a common employment and labour law. But the issue requires a great deal of work and endeavour to be attained. Some steps have indeed been taken along the road to unity. For instance, GCC nationals can move between member states on the identity cards and some member states allow GCC nationals to have properties in each other's countries. These are positive steps that further tighten the integration of GCC peoples. But we still have a long way to go and many obstacles to remove, which we can do only by ceaseless work and co-operation.

You have criticized the US dual containment policy towards Iraq and Iran in front of US President Bill Clinton. What alternatives do you suggest and how can pressure on GCC countries be lifted without the presence of international deterrence?

Iraq and Iran are, undoubtedly, two prominent countries of the region and are permanent neighbors of GCC states, so I believe that dialogue with them is the best means to establish co-operative relations that may contribute to the maintaining security in the Gulf region. The recent presidential elections in Iran have shown signs of an Iranian desire to



establish good relations with all GCC member states. And I believe that GCC countries maintain good defensive relations with the US, France and Britain.

In your speech in the United States, you said that Saddam Hussein has become stronger than before. On what criteria have you based this assessment and what does a stronger Saddam mean to GCC countries, particularly Kuwait?

The embargo imposed on Iraq, I believe, harms the Iraqi people and the ordinary masses. Although I absolutely believe that Iraq-related UN resolutions should be implemented, we should never forget that there is a brotherly people who are suffering

bitterly. I mean that Saddam has grown strong following Desert Storm, in comparison to the Western presence in the region.

How might your relations with Iraq help in ending the Kuwaiti captives issue?

There are international resolutions on this issue. We do hope that Iraq would abide by and implement them. For our part, we have tried and are still trying through our relations with Iraq to put an end to this issue, because it is a humanitarian issue that we hope will come to an end soon, when all of these (PoWs) return to their families, taking into consideration that Iraq denies having such numbers.

Thurs.  
South Theater: Hamlet  
North Theater: Othello  
Beauty—Rena  
Arms: Home Open  
Sound & Light Theater  
Greece

Fri. 1  
South Theater: Hamlet  
North Theater: Othello  
Beauty—Rena  
Arms: Home Open  
Sound & Light Theater

Sat. 2  
South Theater: Des. H.  
North Theater: El. SO  
UK  
Arms: Home Open  
Al Sham Area  
Sound & Light Theater

Sun. 3  
South Theater: Des. H.  
North Theater: El. SO  
UK  
Arms: Home Open  
Al Sham Area  
Sound & Light Theater

Mon. 4  
South Theater: Hamlet  
North Theater: Othello  
Beauty—Rena  
Arms: Home Open  
Sound & Light Theater

Tue. 5  
South Theater: Adultery  
Arms: Home Open  
Arms Theater: Dance  
Sound & Light Theater

Wed. 6  
South Theater: Adultery  
Arms: Home Open  
Arms Theater: Dance  
Sound & Light Theater

Thurs. 7  
South Theater: Hamlet  
North Theater: Othello  
Beauty—Rena  
Arms: Home Open  
Sound & Light Theater

Fri. 8  
South Theater: Hamlet  
North Theater: Othello  
Beauty—Rena  
Arms: Home Open  
Sound & Light Theater

Sat. 9  
South Theater: Des. H.  
North Theater: El. SO  
UK  
Arms: Home Open  
Al Sham Area  
Sound & Light Theater

Sun. 10  
South Theater: Des. H.  
North Theater: El. SO  
UK  
Arms: Home Open  
Al Sham Area  
Sound & Light Theater

Mon. 11  
South Theater: Hamlet  
North Theater: Othello  
Beauty—Rena  
Arms: Home Open  
Sound & Light Theater

Tue. 12  
South Theater: Adultery  
Arms: Home Open  
Arms Theater: Dance  
Sound & Light Theater

Wed. 13  
South Theater: Adultery  
Arms: Home Open  
Arms Theater: Dance  
Sound & Light Theater

Thurs. 14  
South Theater: Hamlet  
North Theater: Othello  
Beauty—Rena  
Arms: Home Open  
Sound & Light Theater

Fri. 15  
South Theater: Hamlet  
North Theater: Othello  
Beauty—Rena  
Arms: Home Open  
Sound & Light Theater

Sat. 16  
South Theater: Des. H.  
North Theater: El. SO  
UK  
Arms: Home Open  
Al Sham Area  
Sound & Light Theater

Sun. 17  
South Theater: Des. H.  
North Theater: El. SO  
UK  
Arms: Home Open  
Al Sham Area  
Sound & Light Theater

Mon. 18  
South Theater: Hamlet  
North Theater: Othello  
Beauty—Rena  
Arms: Home Open  
Sound & Light Theater

Tue. 19  
South Theater: Adultery  
Arms: Home Open  
Arms Theater: Dance  
Sound & Light Theater

Wed. 20  
South Theater: Adultery  
Arms: Home Open  
Arms Theater: Dance  
Sound & Light Theater

Thurs. 21  
South Theater: Hamlet  
North Theater: Othello  
Beauty—Rena  
Arms: Home Open  
Sound & Light Theater

Fri. 22  
South Theater: Hamlet  
North Theater: Othello  
Beauty—Rena  
Arms: Home Open  
Sound & Light Theater

Sat. 23  
South Theater: Des. H.  
North Theater: El. SO  
UK  
Arms: Home Open  
Al Sham Area  
Sound & Light Theater

Sun. 24  
South Theater: Des. H.  
North Theater: El. SO  
UK  
Arms: Home Open  
Al Sham Area  
Sound & Light Theater

Mon. 25  
South Theater: Hamlet  
North Theater: Othello  
Beauty—Rena  
Arms: Home Open  
Sound & Light Theater

Tue. 26  
South Theater: Adultery  
Arms: Home Open  
Arms Theater: Dance  
Sound & Light Theater

Wed. 27  
South Theater: Adultery  
Arms: Home Open  
Arms Theater: Dance  
Sound & Light Theater

Thurs. 28  
South Theater: Hamlet  
North Theater: Othello  
Beauty—Rena  
Arms: Home Open  
Sound & Light Theater

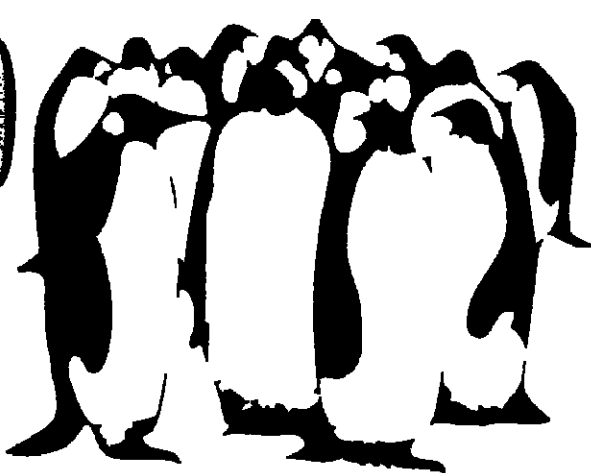
Fri. 29  
South Theater: Hamlet  
North Theater: Othello  
Beauty—Rena  
Arms: Home Open  
Sound & Light Theater

Sat. 30  
South Theater: Des. H.  
North Theater: El. SO  
UK  
Arms: Home Open  
Al Sham Area  
Sound & Light Theater

Sun. 31  
South Theater: Des. H.  
North Theater: El. SO  
UK  
Arms: Home Open  
Al Sham Area  
Sound & Light Theater



# AROUND TOWN



## S. Africa at Jerash

One of the many international groups that are participating in the Jerash Festival is the one from South Africa. This is the first time the group takes part in the event performing traditional folklore from South Africa. The group was established in 1986.



## Celebs sing in Jerash '97

JERASH'S SOUTH Theater was lit once again. First to start was the hit singer Wa'el Kfoury who delighted the audience with his Lebanese voice.

"Jerash is my dream", said Kfoury just before the start of the concerts. During the three days he sang on stage, the singer performed in his army uniform. For the first time in 16 years, the Jerash festival received a soldier in service.

Kfoury sang to an audience of well above 8000 people during his concerts which all began after 9 pm.

The fact that his orchestra arrived late on his final day proved no hindrance to enthusiasm.

The crowd went into a frenzy in the mid-summer nights of cool breeze. Applauding, waving, singing, Kfoury catered for the younger generation of enthusiasts. Teenagers just let it hang out, and screaming at the sight of the singer who was moving from one end of the stage to the other during his songs.

Kfoury's "Massekom bil khair" (good evening to you all) was followed by many of their favorites, like "Meen habibi ana", "Ma'koul itshatti bi aab" and "Ma wadda'tak bi njoum el lail".

For some reason or other, and during large gatherings, crowds just act differently. Crowd psychology means hysteria, and this was the sight during his concerts.

The pillars of the southern amphitheatre echoed with his voice, and inspired the young to move and dance to his enigmatic and lively songs. The youths, also waved posters and T-shirts of Wa'el Kfoury whilst interacting with the singer. For indeed, the audience was receptive and responsive to the music, and so encouraged Kfoury to feel even more comfort-



Wa'el Kfoury

able and at home amongst the Jordanian and Arab audience.

It was an affair to remember in the full sense of the word. The enthusiasm and fun-stricken atmosphere, was a further testament to the lively and warm nature of the Arab peoples.



Assi Hilani comes to Jerash for this first time. The hugely popular Lebanese singer sent the audience into a frenzy of excitement during his three-night concerts. The South Theater was packed with the people who took their seats long before the concerts started. Young, old and from everywhere all participated in the singing and dancing. Observers say every one went wild!



## Ammar Quartet

# Classical music revisited

By a Star Staff Writer

THE JERASH Festival is exciting precisely because of the very nature of its diversity. The organizers seek to put on as much events as possible which range from pop music, folkore, plays, and classical music.

Last week was the turn of the classics—these concerts will of course continue till the end of the festival—and all the way from Poland, the audience were given a very special treat.

The Amar Corde String Quartet played the finest in classical music in the North Theater.

Four professional women musicians gave a thrilling performance in the beautiful but antiquated North Theater that was used for the first time this year.

The sum total of the exercise was two violins, a viola and a cello, but the sound was magic, being given the extra feeling that one was living in another world, a more ancient one, that only came alive by listening to such European greats as Mozart, Debshi, Haydn and Mendelssohn.

Being a Polish quartet, famous classical musicians from their mother country also came through. These included people like Moniuszko, and Szymanowski. It was in the final analysis a concentration on the modern and the classical.

The themes of the music, the rhythm, the passion all came out. Earlier Agata Zajac who plays the cello, said what "we aim to create the



right artistic tempo, the articulation of the pieces, impressions and above all the phrasing of the pieces."

All this came through during their two-day concerts. Indeed, seeing is believing, watching Agata play was a lot different and more exciting. The intensity, the concentration, the quietness and the vigor all represented a new dimension.

Beata Ploska, the viola player said that "we decide on what we want to play and play how

we feel." This indeed is what the concerts were all about. To say it was "poetry in motion" would not be an overstatement. Violinists Barabara Stuhl and Boguslawa Ziegelheim completed a very harmonious quartet, playing music to a "T".

All would play together in a synergy, one player would follow the other depending on the rhythm and lyrics that they are playing.

All this of course demands very hard work and lots and lots of practice. Even during their stay in Amman and just before the concert, the Amar Quartet would practice daily. They say that this is essential if they want to get it right on the night.

Whilst the quartet was only formed in 1994 in Cracow—the old capital of Poland and arguably its cultural heartland—the women musicians are very experienced playing in the Cracow Philharmonic Orchestra and long graduates of the Academy of music. All four started music at a very young age. Beata for instance started playing when she was only six years old.

The quartet played all over Europe and gave a performance recently in Kuwait.

## Jordanian band with a South American touch

THE LOS Morenos band is the most versatile among Jordan's pop groups today. They are playing at the Jerash Festival almost daily.

Formed by three members in 1991, the Los Morenos Band specializes mainly in Latin and Spanish Music beside Arabic and foreign music. This style of music is proving very popular in Jordan.

Through hard work and practice, the Los Morenos Band attracted a lot of fans. The band today has established a solid basis.

After their participation in the Pop Music Festival for Local Jordanian Bands in 1993 at the Royal Cultural Center, the groups career began to take off. In July 1997, the band participated in "The International Music Day Festival" sponsored by the French Cultural Center and the Freddy for Music center.

The Los Morenos Band now plans to expand its activities by taking part in future festivals and concerts that will take place in Jordan. Its members are: Maher Essa Hunhun, (Drums), Yousif Yalda Ibrahim, (Singer & Manager), Antony Leonard Oskar, (Singer), Morad Hasah Demriyan, (Keyboard), Roger G. Eliah, (Guitarist).

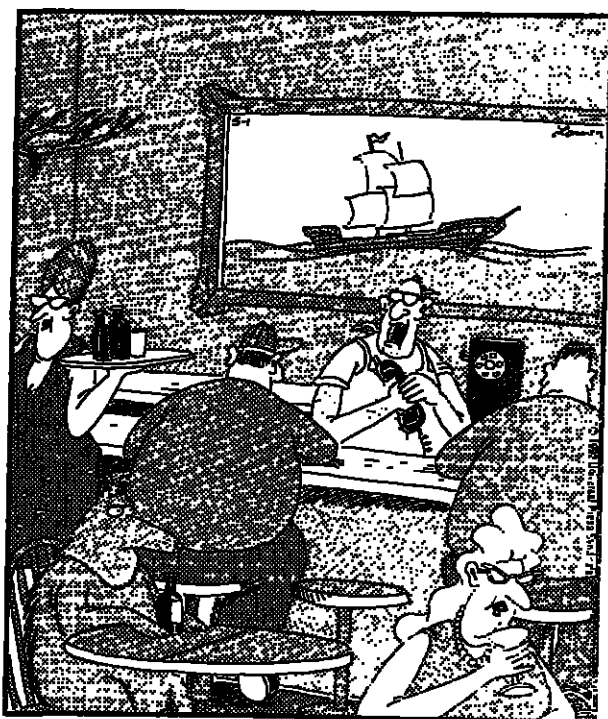


## THE FAR SIDE

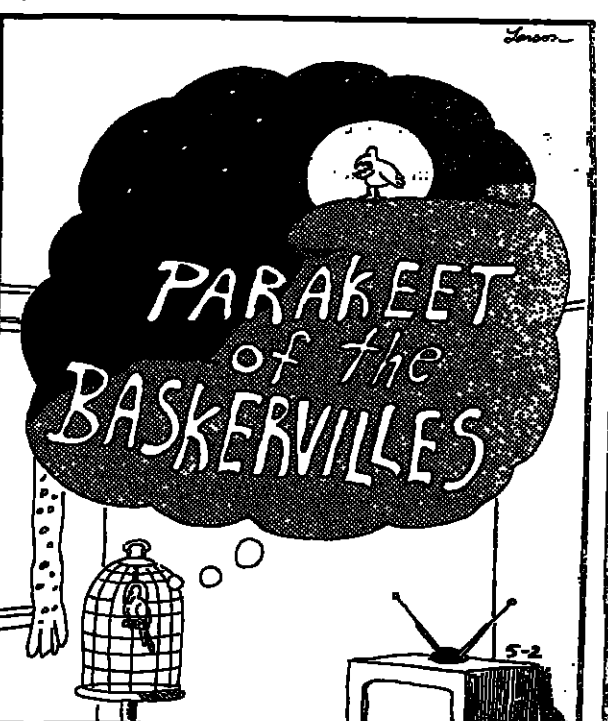
By GARY LARSON



Concepts of hell



"LASSIE!... COME HOME!... LASSIE COME HOME!"



Buddy's dreams



"OK, let's start the exam. Stinking caps on, everyone — stinking caps on."

## SLAPSTIX

A man is accepted into a church for what he believes and he is turned out for what he knows!

© 1997, Tribune Media Services



Thurs. 31/7/97

- South Theater: Hani Shaker—Egypt
- North Theater: OMSK Ballet, Sleeping Beauty—Russia
- Artimes: Hiezia Operette—Algeria
- Sound & Light Theater: Karagounides Group—Greece

Fri. 1/8/97

- South Theater: Hani Shaker—Egypt
- North Theater: OMSK Ballet, Sleeping Beauty—Russia
- Artimes: Hiezia Operette—Algeria
- Sound & Light Theater: Palestinian Group

Sat. 2/8/97

- South Theater: Dos Hermanas—Spain
- North Theater: EUBO Baroque Orchestra—UK
- Artimes: Irbid Musical Group—Songs from Al Sham Area
- Sound & Light Theater: Palestinian Group

Sun 3/8/97

- South Theater: Dos Hermanas—Spain
- North Theater: EUBO Baroque Orchestra—UK
- Artimes: Irbid Musical Group—Songs from Al Sham Area
- Sound & Light Theater: Mu'ta University

Mon. 4/8/97

- South Theater: Iraqi Group—Iraq
- Artimes: Indian Group
- Sound & Light Theater: Amman National University

Tue. 5/8/97

- South Theater: Adulmajid Abdalla—Saudi Arabia
- North Theater: Rosemary George—USA
- Artimes Theater: Dance Co. Yugo—Japan
- Sound & Light Theater: Tanboursa Grup—Egypt

Wed. 6/8/97

- South Theater: Adulmajid Abdalla—Saudi Arabia
- North Theater: Rosemary George—USA
- Artimes Theater: Dance Co. Yugo—Japan
- Sound & Light Theater: Tanboursa Grup—Egypt

**By Koufi Attah**  
*Special to the Star*

**THE JORDAN** Artists and Crafts Center, "Artisans" surprised "Ammanites" in its last 20 majestic works by Swiss photographer, Claudio Pedotti. Claudio puts her photographic talent to work, creating unique motifs in rich colors that natural beauty.

Among the photographs are classified Swiss flowers and several European ones. Her collection is informative as her first photograph hung at the entrance of the exhibition hall shows. Titled "Tenderness" (*Baisers d'enfant*) it brings to mind frailty and delicateness. She likens children to flowers and presents them as weak species to be protected tenderly.



Of all the flowers that she has photographed, there are perhaps none that clearly speaks of change and rightful position as does the "marguerite" which appears more than two times in her photographs. The flower, an eye-daisy is waxly white with yellow bud and, green stalk, covering one third of the plate, with still a wide space to cover. Her marguerite "white petal" is noticed in another photograph with red background and right in the center of the photograph, yet another marguerite "white petal" is placed at the bottom of the photograph with a vast space upwards.

"The main idea and inspiration is to make something original and sincere," Claudia disclosed. "Something natural. There are a lot of manipulation of flowers by computer in Europe." Claudia encourages the viewer to appreciate all the stages of life, especially the end. The most remarkable of her flowers is the rose "resting" (*Le Repos*), the red rose looks almost too perfect to be real, lying in a resting position Claudis says "it symbolizes sorrow and agony. A sad moment to say 'adieu' to a lov-

ing one. The photograph has a great shock value and dramatic change from the rest and the way the visitor perceives reality.

Instead of exhibiting a lot of photographs and conveying the same message Claudia chose a little that says more. This is in contrast with her previous successful exhibition on 'Landscape', in Bern, Switzerland, she shows a complex and expressive colors and flowers. Her distinct photographic works, with elegant precision of "colors and flowers", are "expressive and precise."

Claudia Pedotti's "colors and flowers" exhibition is under the patronage of Mrs Leila Sharaf, and with the collaboration of Mrs Hilmi Nasser, the director of the Jordan Arts and Crafts Center, "Artisana". Her exhibits prices range from JD 80 JD to JD 220. The exhibition is at "Artisana" at the Second Circle, Jabal Amman, and lasts till 16 August in tandem with an exhibition of Jordanian arts and crafts.

It is said that precious gifts come in

small packages, which is often true. But rarely do you hear it is said gifts fall from heaven. There's plenty of Jordanian handiwork. In the Jordan Arts and Crafts Centre 'Artisana' for those on the lookout for precious gifts," says Mrs. Nasser.

The center displays sculpture, painting, graphics, pottery etc., by Jordanian and other Arab artists. The center wants to show that arts and crafts can come to people and who don't need to go to a museum to enjoy it. Objects in the center range from vases with designs scratched into the glaze, pottery, silver plastic, rugs with bedouin embroidery. Others include Brass vessels inspired by the Mediterranean and the Middle East. Wide range of handmade Arab Jordanian crafts are among the best gifts available.

A selection of Arts and Crafts of local one other Arab artists is on permanent display at Artisana. The Center is open from 9.30 am till 6.30 pm except Fridays. ■

**AMMAN** (Star)—Summer days has its own touch of good times, and fashion shows in the open air, can give summer a hit more fun and time to relax.

Since the opening of the new Inter.Continental's swimming pool, non-stop events are standing in line waiting for its turn.

One of these events was a spectacular fashion show held along side the swimming pool. Organized by ADRES a local fashion company the show presented the best of ADRES, JAR-WAN and PETIT summer collection for this year. Royal Optics for sunglasses, Max Mix's accessories also displayed their products at the show.

A live make-up performance was presented by L'Oréal Perfection displaying the latest-in cosmetics. As for models, a hair professional touch was given by Hammodee Saloon's hair stylist giving a perfect combination of look and body wear.

Maryya Media Service in Jordan took care of the local and international media coverage.

Maryya later said that they will hold the next winter collection in October this year. ■



*Photo Courtesy of Amiad Abu Dabaseh*

*At the Philadelphia Cinema*

A FEW years back, venture capitalist John Hammond figured out how to recreate dinosaurs from DNA fragments encased in amber. He started a company called In Gen, which placed the genetically engineered dinosaurs in a theme park on an island in Costa Rica.

But the Jurassic Park systems broke down shortly before it could open, the dinosaurs got free and had to be destroyed, and the island was closed to the public.

In the aftermath, everyone involved moved quickly to quash the story. In Gen wanted to limit its liability. The Costa Rican government wanted to preserve its reputation as a tourist paradise. And the individual scientists who had been

hired as consultants on the project were bound by nondisclosure agreements to remain silent.

The Lost World: Jurassic Park is the sequel to Steven Spielberg's 1993 film recounting events on a Costa Rican island inhabited by genetically-engineered dinosaurs, which broke all box-office records and showcased an emerging visual effects technology.

Based on the novel by Michael Crichton, the story picks up four years after the disaster at Jurassic Park. Something has survived on Isla Sorna, a second island where the dinosaur manufacturing facility code-named Site B has been destroyed by a hurricane, and the animals now run free, constrained only by the laws of



I was interested in, Jurassic Park would have remained just a nice memory for me," says Steven Spielberg.

For Spielberg, who had been carefully considering a number of projects for his return to directing after a three-year hiatus, Crichton's interest in revisiting the Jurassic saga helped sway his own decision. Universal Pictures and Amblin Entertainment, Spielberg's production company, had begun discussing a sequel to Jurassic Park as the original film was breaking box-office records

around the world enroute to becoming the highest-grossing motion picture of all time. Now, Spielberg, Crichton and Jurassic Park screenwriter David Koepp entered into a gentleman's agreement to bring *The Lost World* to the screen, under the Universal-Amblin umbrella.

"I realized that what I really wanted to do was direct. I had started a company and done a lot of other things in those three years. So I was ready to return

**Continued on page 9**

**CORONATION ST.**



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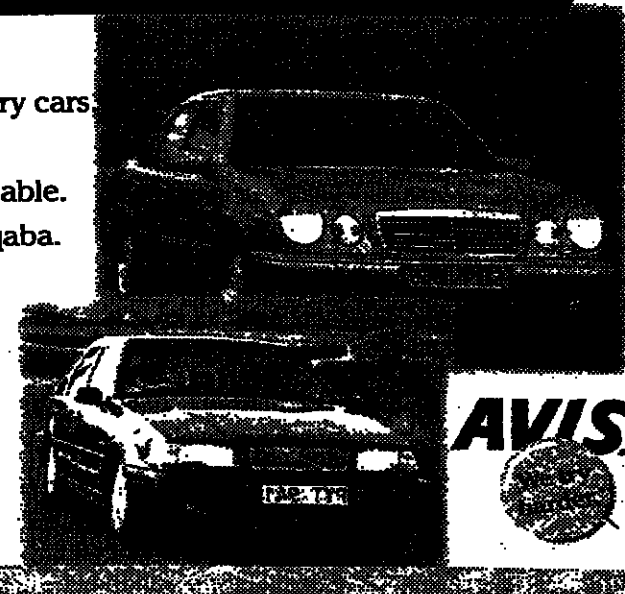
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هَذَا مِنْ أَشْهَالِ



Jordan River Designs

# Helping underprivileged through traditional design

JORDAN RIVER Designs (JRD) presents a unique collection of hand-embroidered home furnishings and fashion accessories.

Building on the traditional skills that were passed from mother to daughter, Jordan River Designs was established by Save the Children in 1987 with a mission to assist women living in the squatter settlements in East Amman, to gain up-scale skills, generate income and part-time employment, to supplement their families income and as a result to improve their lives and those of their children. Most of these women have been the breadwinners in their families.

As of January 1996, the JRD program has been transferred to the Jordan River For Development Projects (JRDP). A non-profit society established in Jordan under the Ministry of Social Development. Its objectives are to "improve the financial, cultural, health, social, educational, technical skills and the well being of the community at large. It is thus, an organization that is developmental and its primary means for reaching its goals is through the vehicle of income generation (the creation of jobs especially among the underprivileged).

The society presently has a Board of Directors consisting of nine dynamic professionals and is under the presidency of

Her Royal Highness Princess Rania Al Abdullah.

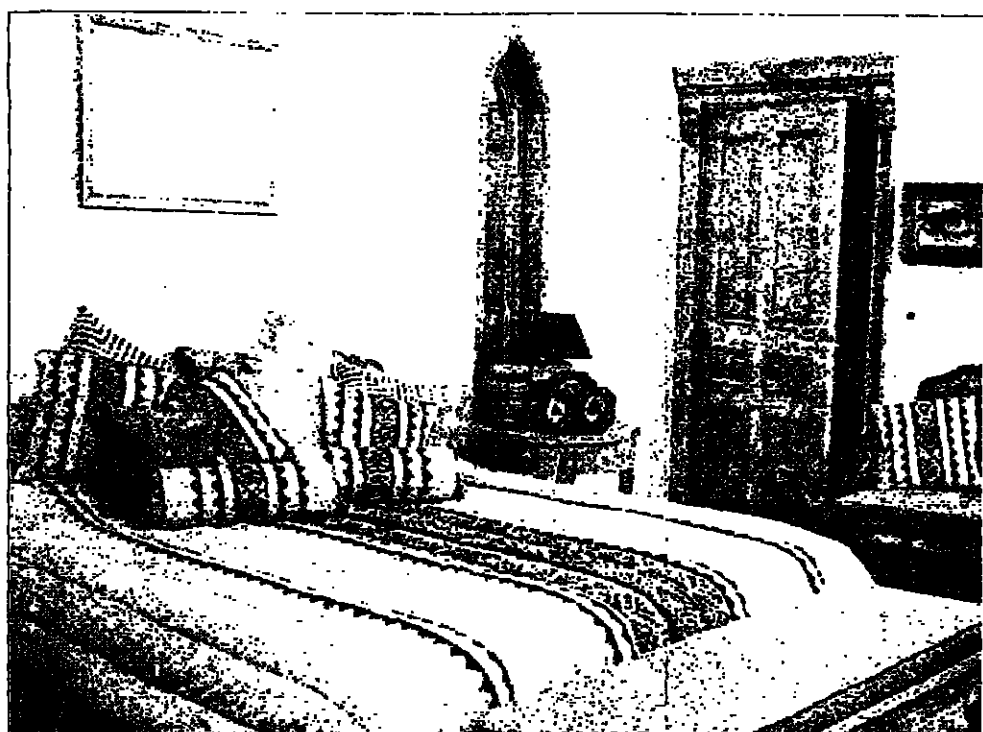
A development project, JRD has pioneered a successful model partnering the skilled craftsmanship of over 1600 women with the entrepreneurial and management skills of professional Jordanian businesswomen. Dedicated to humane practices, Jordan River Designs is committed to high quality and customer satisfaction, and at the same time provides JRD underprivileged participants with new hope for survival.

Jordan River Designs products combine traditional and modern stitches. Each design tells a story, every pattern identifies a village. The women stitch the story of their lives and their dreams into a rich tapestry adding their own innovations to the cultural legacy. The colors reveal secrets to the discriminating eye and the beauty of the whole speaks a universal language understood by all.

Hand-embroidered Quilts with matching Cushions: A unique combination of traditional stitching and modern designs in a beautiful range of bedroom accessories.

There are new bathroom accessories and include a wide range of hand-embroidered quality towels.

There are new Duvet covers and bed linen. Jordan River Designs offers a decorative selection of pure cotton duvets and bed linen.



Also on display there is a collection of festive tablecloths and table settings in traditional and contemporary designs. Besides that there is a collection of wall hangings with ancient mosaics of Jordan as well as images of the old city of Jerusalem and many other inspirations.

Other gift items consist of embroidered and hand-crafted picture albums, notebooks, phone books, purses etc. There is natural Olive oil Soap. The legendary cosmetic benefits of pure olive oil soap, beautifully packaged.

All these products are hand-made by underprivileged women in east Amman to satisfy your taste. Support JRD underprivileged women by visiting our new showroom at Jabal Amman 1st circle—Rainbow street opposite to Firnis Printhouse.

Marmara hotel

## For the more specialized business guest

AMMAN (Star)—A hotel should be like home, a place to relax, a place where you can put your feet up and at the same time have everything at your finger tips. This is exactly the idea behind the Marmara hotel.

Situated in Mecca Street at the Kilo 2 intersection, the Marmara Hotel, which has just opened, its doors is a very special place that is designed for a very special customer.

Its General Manager, a no nonsense man from Switzerland seeks to give only the very best. Ernest Liniger says that the hotel is specifically targeted at the foreign businessman. With 30 rooms available, Mr Liniger says he is in no hurry, but wants to attract "the right clientele."

And that means quality. As you enter the hotel you are immediately struck by its informality. The small lobby they have is expertly decorated and designed to bring out that homely atmosphere. But appearance can sometimes be deceptive. The lobby is elegantly furnished with sets of antique sofas and fauteuils to provide for that very special clientele Liniger talks about.

Businessmen need time to relax and to enjoy the rich atmosphere. The hotel has a full communication facilities. In their bedrooms, guests can just plug in their computer to the telephone points and have full telefax and internet connection. Few of the hotels in Amman have these facilities, points out Liniger.

Further, upon request, guests in the Executive Suites can have their own telephone line during their stay. But there is more. At the ground floor there is a business center of faxes, computer systems, a photocopier, a color printer and an experienced and professional secretary at hand.

Mr Liniger is optimistic of the future. Despite the competition from other different hotels in Amman, he remains an optimist and points out

that he is glad of the challenge. He says the world will never stop doing business and that is where his establishment comes in.

The concept behind the Marmara hotel didn't come out of thin air. It was the result of a careful market studies on corporate and business executives. Mr Liniger found out that these are basically looking for a "better value for money," which in his words means a "comfortable bed and the right ambience."

And hence the rooms were striking not only for their simplicity, but for their decor. Each equipped with a television set and a satellite connection, the rooms display all a person needs in comfort. Tables and chairs are especially designed to give the executive touch.

What is striking also is that each room is designed separately with different color and different color carpets. That also goes for the different floors. Here it must be said that the hotel does also cater for the ordinary holiday-maker.

What is also exciting about this hotel is its restaurant. The Merilin—especially named after Merilin who served King Arthur in the middle ages—is designed to give the best of service. "And this is the idea, every guest is a king at Marmara," says Liniger.

The cuisine, mainly European with a dash of Swiss taste, promises to tickle everyone's taste buds. The menu, like everything else in the hotel is made under the direct supervision of Mr Liniger who says that the customer always comes first.

The management will soon embark on further expansion of the hotel. A spacious summer terrace with a new restaurant will soon be built, as well as a multi-purpose hall and a pub. This, the management says, is to complete the "Marmara" Hospitality Concept.



## The Lost World: Jurassic Park

Continued from page 8

to it, and I had always wanted to do a sequel to Jurassic Park—both because of popular demand and because I'd had such a great time making the first film," Spielberg reflects.

With the deal in place, Spielberg began to pull together a creative team, nearly every member of which was a veteran of Jurassic Park. Serving with Spielberg were producers Gerald R. Molen and Colin Wilson. Executive producer Kathleen Kennedy would also return to the fold, along with production designer Rick Carter, film editor Michael Kalm and composer John Williams.

With full motion dinosaurs by Dennis Muren, live action dinosaurs by Stan Winston and special dinosaur effects by Michael Lantieri, this Academy Award winning triad that had combined talents to create the dinosaur effects for the first film also committed to the sequel. Of all the department heads, only director of photography Janusz Kaminski—who had shot Schindler's List for Spielberg—was not an alumnus of Jurassic Park.

In The Lost World: Jurassic Park, Jeff Goldblum reprises



his role as chaos theorist Ian Malcolm and Richard Attenborough makes a special appearance as the ambitious entrepreneur John Hammond. Julianne Moore (Nine Months), Pete Postlethwaite (In the Name of the Father), Arliss Howard (To Wong Foo,

Thanks for Everything! Julie Newmar), Vince Vaughn (Swing), Vanessa Lee Chester (Harrier the Spy), Peter Stormare (Fargo), Harvey Jason (Air America), Richard Schiff (City Hall) and Thomas F. Duffy (Wolf) join Goldblum in the cast.

The Lost World: Jurassic Park is Spielberg's first film since 1993, when he directed both Jurassic Park and Schindler's List, which won a total of seven Academy Awards including Best Picture and Best Director. Jurassic Park was also honored with three

Academy Awards including Best Sound, Best Sound Effects Editing and Best Visual Effects.

It was clear that Universal wanted to talk about doing a sequel in the record-setting period following the release of the original film. (With worldwide ticket sales of more than \$916 million, Jurassic Park continued to break records when it was released on home video, where it holds the title of top-selling live-action motion picture of all time.)

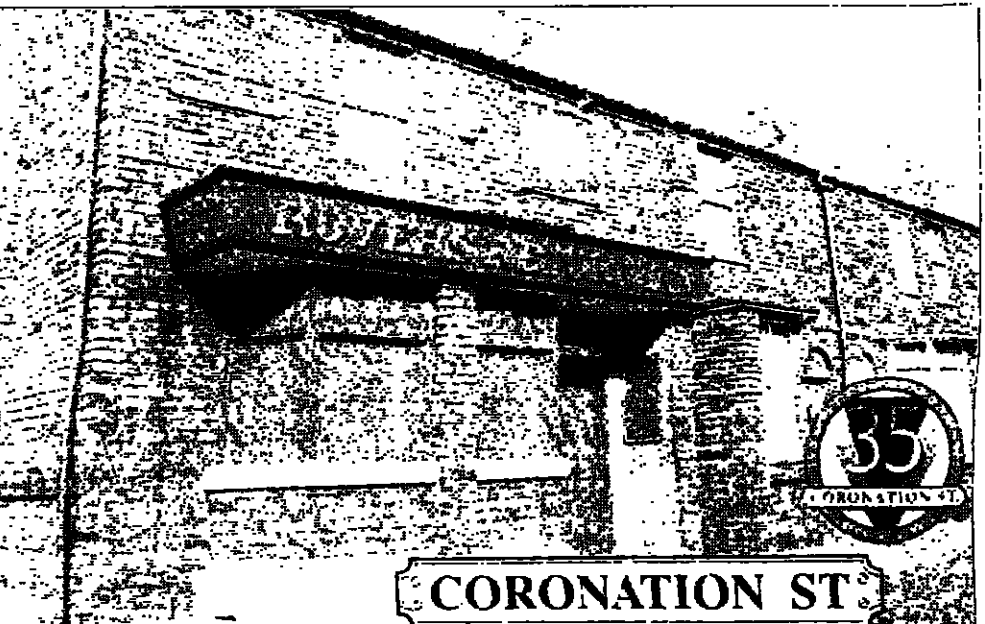
The filmmakers had discussions amongst themselves and with Michael Crichton. While there was interest in a sequel, there was no guarantee that Crichton was going to write another book. Determining a schedule for a second Jurassic Park film was dependent on whether Crichton would proceed.

Meanwhile, Spielberg and screenwriter David Koepp were already talking.

Yes, the director confirmed, there would be interest in an encore, if there was a good story to be told.

The Lost World: Jurassic Park is showing at the Philadelphia Cinema on Amman's Third Circle.

## Rover's Return in Jordan



FOR CENTURIES pubs have been the gathering place for Englishmen seeking a pint of ale, a game of darts, or a visit with friends—in every way a true public house. From the highly acclaimed English soap opera, Coronation Street, comes the Rover's Return English pub. It is the only one in existence outside the United Kingdom.

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# Buddhism's 'golden age'

By Laura Tyson

THE CHUBBY face with its signature cherubic grin stands out in one photograph after another: with a youthful US senator Al Gore in 1988; with Soviet dissident writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn; with Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama; with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican.

Despite the tanned pate and flowing saffron cassock, Venerable Master Hsing Yun is anything but a simple Buddhist monk. The flamboyant founder of Fokuangshan Temple, which celebrates its 30th anniversary this year, is Taiwan's most influential Buddhist leader and its most controversial.

The temple's influence even extends to the US, where it is growing in step with Asian Americans' greater voice in the political arena. Last year Fokuangshan, which means "Buddha's light mountain," was caught up in the scandal surrounding the financing of Bill Clinton's presidential re-election campaign. Vice-president Gore was a guest at Fokuangshan during one of his trips to Taiwan.

The country's transformation in the last decade from a military dictatorship, run by devout Christians, to a prosperous democracy has helped Buddhism to supplant Christianity as the religion with the most clout.

Taiwan's former ruler, Chiang Kai-shek, considered Buddhism as *declassé*. With the end of the dictatorship in 1987, and the end of the Chiang family era with the death of Kai-shek's son in 1988, society opened up in many ways.

Rising social uncertainty and sudden material prosperity has made many ordinary Taiwanese seek spiritual solace in Buddhism, bolstering temple coffers and attracting politicians eager to woo Buddhist leaders for the vote of the faithful.

Fokuangshan Temple stands in the vanguard of a new evangelical Buddhism led by spiritual entrepreneurs and followed by a corps of affluent devotees.

Seventy-year-old Hsing Yun's formidable skills in popularising Buddhist precepts are matched only by those in cultivating the powerful and wealthy, attracting critics as well as followers. His appeal is enhanced by his everyman persona. His biography shows photos of him riding a camel in Egypt; playing basketball with robes a-flutter; with a pigeon perched on his bald head.

The order he established 30 years ago in southern Taiwan now has over 1,300 monasteries mostly women and claims 1m lay faithful in more than 100



countries. It receives an estimated \$3.7m in donations each month.

Fokuangshan sees itself at the centre of a renaissance in the Buddhist faith. "This is a golden age for Buddhism, especially in Taiwan," says Fokuangshan's abbot, Venerable Hsin Ting.

Hsing Yun, who fled from mainland China in 1949 when the Communists took control, was arrested several times by Generalissimo Chiang's security forces in the 1950s.

Times have changed. Taiwan's Nationalist-led government recently gave Hsing Yun, whose monastic name means "stars and clouds", a role as ambassador-at-large for diplomatically isolated Taipei.

When the Dalai Lama made an unprecedented visit to Taiwan in March, his first stop was Fokuangshan, where he was greeted by thousands of Buddhist followers and supporters of Taiwanese and Tibetan independence.

Taiwan there was the potential to neglect what he called "basic human values".

"Material progress must be balanced with spiritual development," he cautioned. His words resonated in Taiwan, where people feel bewildered by the pace and direction of change. Last

year, there was a spate of scandals about secretive religious sects whose leaders claimed supernatural powers and duped many naive followers. "Societal change in Taiwan has created a strange phenomenon," laments Hsin Ting. "Many people are making money under the camouflage of Buddhism. These people are not true Buddhists but they damage the reputation and image of Buddhism."

"Now the government comes round, not to ask for help with charitable endeavours but to investigate temple tax records," he says. As in China's Tang Dynasty, when Buddhism flourished and temples were at the height of their powers, religious organisations are exempt from taxes. But this has come under scrutiny.

The Dalai Lama said his main purpose in visiting Fokuangshan was to learn about bhiksuni the ordination of nuns. This is not merely an academic point. Buddha taught sexual equality but the bhiksuni tradition nonetheless died out many centuries ago in the southern Buddhist countries, including India, Nepal, Burma and Thailand.

Women are excluded from full ordination because the monks are very conservative, says Master Man Hwa, an

energetic cellular phone-toting nun who works in the temple's international affairs office. "We believe they are guarding their own cafeteria. They don't want to share the cake," she says.

Fokuangshan publishes prolifically. Scholars are compiling a vernacular Chinese version of the Buddhist sutras, the equivalent of Martin Luther translating the Bible from Latin into German. The project is being undertaken in co-operation with Buddhist scholars in China.

Fokuangshan's critics call Hsing Yun a "political monk" or a "commercial monk" who is too involved in mundane affairs.

Such criticism is perhaps partly motivated by jealousy of Fokuangshan's success and partly a result of deep philosophical differences among different Buddhist groups. In contrast to many Buddhist sects, Fokuangshan plays down conventional meditation, or *ch'an*, in favour of teaching and charitable activities. Instead, Hsing Yun speaks of "a taste of *ch'an* in everyday life", saying one can meditate while working, eating or even while using a computer.

Financial Times Syndication

A view from America

## Perhaps we need another war

Carrie Nelle Moya  
Star US correspondent

HOW DO we come together again? Perhaps what we need is another war. Obviously this is an absurd statement and a heinous thought. It is just that our nation—our world?—seems to have come to such odds with itself. We fight among ourselves as never before. Many lament the fact that our morals are at an all-time low.

Others use "freedom of speech" to justify virtually anything—and even those of us who disagree with many of these "anythings" must acknowledge that our freedom of speech must be honored.

But where is the line drawn and who draws it? Is it that we are just not teaching our children the same values we were taught? As I write that line I cringe, as I recognize it as the universal generational complaint.

Indeed, I was once taught that Aristotle bemoaned this same truism, but extensive searches for this quote have proved futile. Nevertheless, if he did not say it, no doubt he thought it.

To examine some of today's frustrations: Cruelty has permeated our society to the point that "bun" (and not that of a cigarette nature) is commonplace usage.

The animated television characters, Beavis and Butt-head, have been embraced by two generations of admirers. Not good. But hey, from media reports, they are tame beside the newest characters designed to hit the small and big screens, the "Peanut-looking" kiddies of South Park, youngsters who have "one of the kids (being) probed on a flying saucer from outer space," at which time another says, "Aliens stuff up your ass!"

According to South Park's creator Trey Parker (and buddy Matt Stone), "I can guarantee it's gonna be the raunchiest thing on TV and it's gonna piss a lot of people off." And he is bragging. One cannot help but wonder about Parker and Stone.

Back in 1991 I came home for my annual two weeks in the States. Forget the fact that movies once again referred to women as "girls," that sexism was far worse than it had been in the mid-1970s when the women's movement was coming to full bloom, and

that cigarette smoking by teenagers in films was once more in vogue, the most disturbing thing to me was that the violent but chillingly sick movie "Silence of the Lambs" was the most popular film to date. This was frightening because it seemed to me that if the sickness of Hannibal Lecter was what most movie-going Americans were clamoring to see, our society was a bit screwed up. Nevertheless, this was just a symptom and as human beings evidently we are being scared, then perhaps it was acceptable. Additionally, although we are told in the manner of experts that psychos abound, many of us could relate to a Hannibal Lecter.

But if our youngsters are exposed daily to the likes of Beavis and Butt-head and the characters of South Park,

is it unrealistic to believe that in time they will have a general lowering of standards, with someone the norm rather than being "lower?"

Our present freedom of speech—I do not use the word "precious" lightly—does any type one wants to be put to music and to the masses. We are exercising freedom judiciously, certainly we are polarizing and even increasing the numbers of people who want to legislate limits on what can and cannot be said in public.

A generation ago we left our doors unlocked

and our car windows open. Obviously no longer can we expect to do this. But must we now have to purchase *The Day After* by Gavin De Becker and be admonished, "Don't be afraid, be wary." The sad thing is, we do have to be wary. In the past, sociological statistics assured us that a majority of the murders committed in the US were done so by persons known to their victims. An NBC news report of July 22 told us for the first time in history, 50 percent of the murders in America today are committed by strangers.

How can any person, no matter how free-thinking, be pleased with what is happening?

There is a happy note. It seems that Burt Bacharach, the music artist who was so "in" in the 1960s and '70s and who was viewed condescendingly by many in the 1980s and early 90s, is becoming fashionable with the swinging—*the X-generation*. Great. Call me prudish. But what the world needs now is a little more Burt Bacharach singing.

An NBC news report of July 22 told us that for the first time in history, 50 percent of the murders in America today are committed by strangers

## A crusader for self-delusion

Jack London: A Life By Alex Kershaw, HarperCollins £20, 335 pages.

Reviewed by Justin Wintle

THE AMERICAN critic Alfred Kazin said of his compatriot Jack London that he was his period's greatest crusader and most unashamed

hack. The epithets might easily be transposed. As a spokesman of turn-of-the-century socialism, London was as undaunted in proclaiming his opinions as he was sometimes misguided in them. As a writer who regularly boasted that he only wrote to finance his other interests, he was surely the greatest hack not just of his

own, but any age.

London's output was prodigious. As Alex Kershaw reminds us, in a career that spanned just 18 years he produced 20 novels, 200 short stories and over 400 items of non-fiction, ranging from newspaper articles to book-length essays. Day in, day out, London rose early and wrote a minimum 1,000 words the one abiding discipline in his life. What makes him shine in the firmament, however, is the undisputed quality of his best work, its sheer hard-hatness.

There was a great deal of dross, so much in fact that no one in their right mind would contemplate publishing the *Complete Jack London*; but there were also real diamonds. *The Call of the Wild*, for instance, or *The Sea Wolf*, or *The People of the Abyss*. Indeed, with the exception of Henry James, in an existence foreshortened by alcohol, morphine and burn-out, London published more of lasting value than any of his more fastidious and longer lived contemporaries.

More than any other contemporary, too, London effected the 20th century transition from "author" to "writer". Coming from the far side of the literary-social divide, he brought with him not just his steely articulacy, but also the legendarily rough-neck experiences of his adolescence and early manhood.

The poor son of a con man and a lady astrologer, London left school at 14 to work in a cannery. By 20 he had been an oyster pirate, a trans-Pacific sailor, a hobo and a convict. Then, after tutoring himself to gain a place at Berkeley, and dropping out after only four months, he set off for Alaska and the Klondike on the adventure that made his fame. And others followed, notably his ill-starred attempt at circumnavigation in the *Snark*, accompanied by his second wife Charmian, his ideal "Mate Woman," as he called her.

Despite his imitators, no other writer sports such an action-packed biography. Today it is still mandatory almost for new writers to add something offbeat to their "author's blurb". That, too, is a part of the London legacy. But equally, where London is suspect, it is largely down to his being self-taught, and the accompanying vanity

throughout his life he had a tendency to swallow his chosen influences whole. Thus, while he ingested Marx, Nietzsche, Darwin and Herbert Spencer, he never properly digested them. Rather he was prone to throw them up again, didactically on to his own page.

Perhaps his baroque was so ambitious he needed other men's oars to row it. The results though are uncomfortable. Like H.G. Wells, London embraced eugenics just as he embraced socialism, but without apparently seeing much need to square. The man of the world and champion of the underdog was also a narrow racist, favouring the "Anglo-Saxon race" against all-comers. His understanding of women was similarly disjunctive. He wanted them to be fellow heroes of the future, but had little sensitivity towards them in the present. In his fiction, the female characters invariably fail to convince.

"It does not matter how wrong your philosophy of life may be," London once promulgated, "so long as you have one and have it well." Herein I suspect lies the essence of his personal tragedy. Not only did London have a sterling capacity to delude himself, but somewhere along the line thought that self-delusion showed good form.

Jack London: A Life reassesses the legend without offering a sustained cross-examination. Its journalist author acknowledges that London was partly to its manufacture, but is largely content to regurgitate his subject's biography very much as London himself conceived it, in his innumerable autobiographical outings. The prose, too, is jejune, as London's only rarely is. The apocalyptic remorse experienced by bingeing alcoholics, memorably defined as "white logic" in John Barleycorn, Kershaw misuses as "maudlin".

Elsewhere, redheads areunning, blondes gorgeous. The narrative moves along nicely enough, however, and Kershaw has already sold the film rights to Hollywood, so it would be wrong to insist this book cannot or does not whet the appetite. ■

Financial Times Syndication

Checkov

## Turbulent world of a master

By Jackie Wullschlaeger

Bernard Shaw once said that reading Chekhov's plays made him want to tear up his own. In homage he wrote *Heartbreak House*, about a bizarre family who inhabit "this silly house, this strangely happy house, this agonising house, this house without foundations." The play was supposed to recall the shifting tones of *The Cherry Orchard* and *The Three Sisters*, but Chekhov's life turbulent, exhilarated, restless, tenacious in the battle between the tuberculosis that killed him at 44 and the creative spirit that revolutionised world drama was also something like Shaw's house.

In literary mythology, Chekhov is Russia's doctor-saint-genius, who helped the sick and poor while distilling in his plays the humanity and wisdom behind the medical man's ironic, detached facade. This biography gives us a more complex picture. Rayfield, a Chekhov expert since the 1970s, is the first British biographer to have access to the full editions and letters which were expurgated by the Soviet authorities, and he has uncovered a magnificent amount of new material.

In place of the cool observer, Rayfield gives us a Chekhov embroiled with family, friends and a myriad of lovers all of whom challenged his autonomy as an artist, his space to write, his health, while drawing him into their lives so intensely that they enriched his own imagination. Through a minutiae of farcical detail about elder-down-lined fur coats and invalid-menus of cherry compote and blancmange, Rayfield shows day-by-day how the last great plays *The Seagull*, *Uncle Vanya*, *Three Sisters* and *The Cherry Orchard* were written in a rush against death, and from within a marriage to actress Olga Knipper which was not, as has been thought, idyllic but a union of two ego-driven artists incapable of compromising their vocations.

Most mesmerisingly, there emerges from these pages the doomed but destructively close Chekhov family: in their ineptitude, melancholy and tyranny they seem to epitomise the Russian condition, and they make us see how Chekhov, founder of modern drama, of the theatre of the absurd, of cruel comedy, could have come from nowhere else.

Anton Chekhov was born in Taganrog, a small port on the Sea of Azov in south



geon nor vice, and thus the tragic-comedy. Masha's husband, decked in a white beard, acts the clown to her confessing; after the death of the off-stage, Chekhov, prophet of meaningfulness, sings Tarabochka.

Rayfield makes Chekhov at work a heroic figure, fighting a public who didn't understand, family demands and a frail body. When the first performance of *The Seagull* was booed offstage, Chekhov, "his blue, face frozen in a grimace" said "The author has flopped" and vanished into the Petersburg night.

The Moscow Arts Theatre reversed public perceptions and though Stanislavsky acted Trigorin "like an impotent recovering from typhoid," the response to his *Seagull* was ecstatic. From then on, Chekhov and the Moscow Arts Theatre were locked into a relationship of mutual need and desperation: when he gave them *Three Sisters*, Chekhov was "writing his marriage contract to both a theater and an actress."

Chekhov's two great passionate female roles, Masha and *The Cherry Orchard's* Ranevskaya, were composed for his wife Olga Knipper. But to write them he needed the relative warmth and calm of Yalta; to enact them she had to be in Moscow, rehearsing, drinking, coming home at dawn. They married in 1901, and for five months a year they did not see each other.

*The Cherry Orchard* (1904), farewell play of a dying man, was inspired by a summer Olga and Chekhov spent at Stanislavsky's country house Liubimovka, standing on a river surrounded by fields and forests north east of Moscow.

By the end, Chekhov was wafer-thin, coughing non-stop; a trip to Baden-Baden to restore him was fatal, and he died in his hotel room, where the doctor ordered champagne for him because everything else was useless. "Chekhov could hardly walk, noises came from his chest. But he seemed not to notice. He was interested in anything but illness. Why are such precious contents locked up in such a frail vessel?" asked a friend. This enthralling biography gives us a sense of the physical reality of the man and of his inner life, of the lonely process of composition and the vivid bustle of stage and performance. It is a marvellous achievement. ■

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# Welcome to the latest immortal

**By Stuart Marshall**  
TO GET an idea just how radical the Mercedes-Benz A-Class is, try to imagine Rolls-Royce producing an Escort-sized hatchback, or Jaguar an open two-seater the size of an MGF.

There has never been a Mercedes-Benz remotely like the A-Class. For a start, it has front-wheel drive, is only 3.57 m (just under 12ft) long and has the one box, sit-up-and-beg styling usually associated with town car concepts that never got into production.

When I first saw it and sat in it at the Geneva Salon de l'Automobile last spring, I wondered what on earth Mercedes-Benz was doing. I listened to all the talk about the need for a new kind of vehicle that would be eco-friendly enough to please the greens, sufficiently small to relieve pressure on urban road space and priced so family motorists could afford one. When Mercedes-Benz said it would be all of these things and perform like one of its proper motor cars, I had my doubts. Would it really be worthy of the three-pointed star?

My first drive last week was a revelation. The little car has clearly been built to traditional Mercedes-Benz, bomb-proof quality standards. It was as nippy and nimble as any small, power-steered runabout in town.

Amazingly, it sustained 100mph (161kph) on an autobahn with minimal noise, absolutely no feeling of stress and some power in hand.

Gearing is quite tall at about 25mph/40kph per 1,000rpm. On winding, hilly roads, it cornered and handled as capably as any of its far less lofty rivals. And the head, leg, hip and elbow room in the front and rear seats was what one would expect of a medium/large family saloon. (It has the same interior volume as a Mercedes-Benz C-Class.)

For inspired, mould-breaking design, the A-Class stands alongside such immortals as the Ford Model T, Citroen traction avant, Willys Jeep, VW Beetle and BMC Mini.

You step up into the driving seat and the view through the screen is typical of multi-purpose vehicles; all you can see are the parked wiper blades. Two of the five A-Class cars I tried had optional semi-automatic transmission, like that of the Saab 900 Sensonic or Renault Clio Zoom.

It uses the standard 5-speed manual box with an automatic clutch, which takes up the drive smoothly and progressively and disengages momentarily for shifting gear.

It seems a good compromise as it will be cheaper than the 5-speed fully automatic transmission (not available until next year) but makes driving in dense traffic almost as relaxed, nor does it affect fuel economy.

Early A-Class buyers will have a choice of two petrol engines. 1.4-litre, 82 horsepower and 1.6-litre, 102 horsepower. Two direct injection 1.689 cc turbo-diesels, one producing 60 horsepower, the other 90 horsepower, will follow in 1998. The less potent A-160 turbo-diesel is to

meet tax requirements in some markets. Most countries, Britain included, will get only the more powerful A-170. Semi-automatic and fully automatic transmissions will be available with the turbo-diesel engines.

In run-of-the-mill driving, the two petrol engines felt pretty much the same, though I thought the 1.4-litre even silkier than the 1.6-litre. However hard one pushed it, it just whirled softly. The 90 horsepower diesel muttered softly accelerating hard.

As it produces 20 per cent more torque (pulling power) than the larger of the two petrol engines at far lower revolutions, overtaking in fourth and fifth gears is rapid. Average fuel consumptions range from 40.9 mpg (6.9 l/100km) for the A-160 to 60 mpg (4.7 l/100km) for the A-160 turbo-diesel. Because their exhaust emissions are so clean up to 40 per cent below the relevant EU limits the turbo-diesels will benefit from tax concessions in Germany.

As a 4/5 seater, there is a reasonable amount of luggage space. The load floor can be extended by pushing the rear seat slightly forward. If you really need a huge amount of space, the back seat and even the front passenger seat come right out.

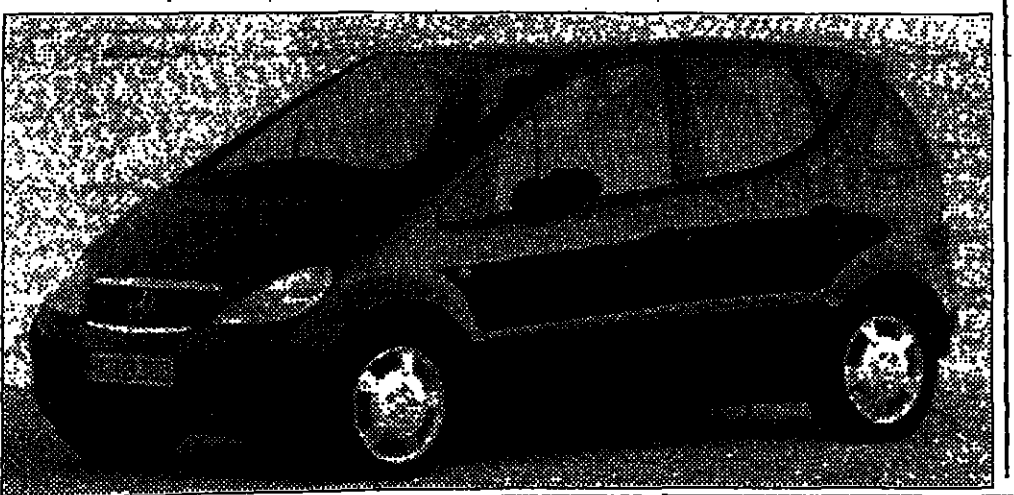
Mercedes-Benz reckons 80 per cent of the 200,000 A-Class it will make each year will be bought by people who now own cars like Ford Escorts, Opel Astras and VW Golfs. It doubts many will buy a top spec automatic, air conditioned A-Class instead of a basic C-Class, even though the prices might seem uncomfortably close.

The A-Class arrives in Britain next year. Prices of the 16,000 Mercedes-Benz UK expects to sell will start at between £13,500 and £14,000. On mainland Europe, an entry model is likely to cost little more than £10,000 but that is with sterling riding high. If the pound remains at this level next year, Mercedes-Benz UK will probably add more goodies as standard, not trim the price.

In Belgium, where sales start in October, the basic A-140 in Classic trim will cost Bfr598,000 (£9,600), the A 160, Bfr660,000. The Classic A-170 turbo-diesel available from March 98 will cost Bfr690,000 while elegant or avant-garde trims add Bfr57,350. Semi-automatic transmission will cost Belgians Bfr28,036, fully automatic transmission Bfr56,071 and air conditioning, Bfr50,977.

Assuming it is eligible, it is a foregone conclusion that the A-Class will win the 1998 European Car of the Year contest by a distance. No car has made a bigger impression on me this year. Like the Renault Megane Scenic, it points to a future in which "one box" designs will be the norm. ■

Financial Times Syndication



## Remaking "Casablanca:" Homage or insult?

**By Tamara Ikenberg**  
FILM IT again, Sam. Fans are shocked, shocked to learn that Hollywood is thinking about remaking "Casablanca." And unlike some Hollywood gossip, this rumor has some basis in fact.

The movie's characters are resurrected in "As Time Goes By," a book coming out next year. Michael Walsh is writing the Warner novel, which includes a prequel and a sequel to the events in the 1942 film. As the rumor goes, the book will become a Warner Bros. movie.

"At this point, there's no confirmation that there's going to be a movie," says Emi Battaglia, director of publicity for Warner books. "There has been discussion, but nothing's been confirmed or finalized."

The news has left fans of the film, set during World War II in the French Moroccan refugee haven, convinced Hollywood is full of vultures, vultures, everywhere. And it's left Walsh weary of unfounded rumors.

"This whole thing has somehow taken on a life of its own," said Walsh, who was approached to take on the project while writing his most recent Warner Books release, "Exchange Alley." "We all sit around and play the casting game."

Nothing is close to being definite, says Walsh, who contends the prequel and sequel are natural extensions of clues about events and characters hinted at in the original.

The last week or two have found Liz Smith projecting about casting in her column. Among the rumored stars were Julia Roberts as Ingrid Bergman's fresh yet wise Ilsa Lund, Sean Penn as Humphrey Bogart's cynical, reluctant sentimentalist Rick Blaine and Ralph Fiennes as Paul Heinreich's idealistic freedom fighter, Victor Laszlo.

Walsh does admit he envies Penn and Fiennes in the roles but has since sent a letter to Smith requesting she rescind the Roberts rumor, which she did.

"Julia Roberts came out of left field," says Walsh, former classical music critic for Time magazine. "Liz made that up."

"Casablanca" has surfaced in multiple remakes already. In 1990, Robert Redford and Lena Olin starred in a knockoff called "Havana." "Casablanca," a turkey of a remake, was released in 1980 with Charles Bronson in the Rick role. There were also two short-lived TV series in 1955 and 1983. The first featured Charles McGraw as Rick, and the second, David Soul. And although it never surfaced, there was talk of an official sequel, "Brazzaville," in which Rick and Renault strike out for the Free French Garrison at Brazzaville.

Despite the failure of direct adaptations, the classic love triangle-meets-political-intrigue plot line has been mutated too many times to mention. Last year's Oscar-winning "The English Patient" was an inverted "Casablanca."

But none of these previous efforts has sparked as much indignation as the current attempt.

"Not many people can get away with sitting there, crying in their bourbon," said Aaron Kurychek, who is encouraging others to boycott a possible remake through his World Wide Web site. "Tom Cruise tried to cry in 'Jerry Maguire,' and you just had to laugh at him."

Kurychek, 25, is a bit of a cyber-Laszlo. He's set up a resistance of his own. The only cause he's interested in is fighting this remake.



Farewell scene between Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman in Casablanca

The recent graduate of the University of Washington at Seattle has seen the film more than 20 times and has devoted a section of his Web site to rallying support against a remake. It includes a petition urging fellow purists to follow his lead. He was inspired to create the page after reading an article about the new book in the Seattle Times.

"I couldn't believe it. As soon as I got home, I got right to work," he says. "I felt like someone had to put their foot down." His site is at <http://webster.washington.edu/kurly/casablanca.html>.

Fans' indignation is interesting when you consider that the "Casablanca" they see as inviolate could have been very different. Several others were considered for the lead before Bogart, James Cagney, Ronald Reagan and George Raft were among them. As for Bergman's Ilsa, Ann Sheridan and Mary Astor were possibilities. But the hot rumor in Hollywood at the time paired George Raft with Hedy Lamarr.

It was by sheer serendipity that Bogart, who had played only gangster types, and Bergman, who wasn't even in the country, were brought in. Because the chemistry was so right, devotees can't imagine anyone else in the roles.

Carrie Rickey, a film critic for the Philadelphia Inquirer, proposes Harrison Ford as Bogart.

"You need someone who has the bad boy thing down," says Rickey, who also contributed to the book "Casablanca: A 50th Anniversary Tribute."

Casting choices, however, are secondary to the greater celluloid dilemma of exploiting the past.

Walsh recognizes that fans will despise any attempt at a remake. And he maintains that he's not an advocate of the gratuitous resurrection of old films.

"Casablanca" is an exception, he says. A fresh injection of its themes—selflessness, loyalty and perseverance against adversity—are needed now more than ever.

"It contrasts with our own time, which is very selfish," Walsh says. "In a grown-up way, these people have to sacrifice things."

Time and again audiences have been reminded that the problems of three little people don't amount to a hill of beans in this crazy world.

Captain Renault bent the law repeatedly to help refugees and friends, even if his motives weren't always pure. Laszlo pursued justice tirelessly despite the danger. Ilsa's sense of duty made her choose to return to her ailing, dedicated husband at the expense of her passion for Rick. Rick decided to part with Ilsa on the grounds of patriotism and rebel solidarity.

Those "Casablanca" virtues can be reassessed, says Tom Kiefer, owner of the Senator Theatre. But a remake isn't the right way to do it.

"It's a noble goal to justify what is ultimately a commercial venture," he says. "If you want to reimagine people with those ideas, do a restoration and have as many people see it as possible."

That's exactly what Kiefer did at the Senator on the film's 50th anniversary. The revival was a sold-out success, leaving viewers amazed, he says.

Although the possibility of a remake repulses Kiefer, he concedes that it already has a built-in audience, whether it's a critical coup or catastrophe.

"It means this industry is falling toward crass commercialism at a more rapid rate than I originally thought," he says. "And I thought it was moving along pretty quickly before."

Whether a remake irks you, you must remember this: Sequels mean big Hollywood business, and Walsh and Warner truly believe in the project.

Should squalid sequelism threaten "Casablanca," don't underestimate the original's power, warns Rickey.

"Casablanca" has survived everything," she says. "It's survived Ted Turner colorizing it."

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

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THE STAR'S

COMPUTING &amp; HIGH TECH

Edited by Zeid Nasser

Bloated operating systems for PC and Mac users:

## 'Fat' clients, hungry for processing power

By Jabra Ghneim

Special to The Star

IT WAS an exciting week in the world of operating systems. Apple introduced a very interesting version of the Macintosh Operating System version 8, and Microsoft released an "alpha" version of its Windows 98 code called "Memphis".

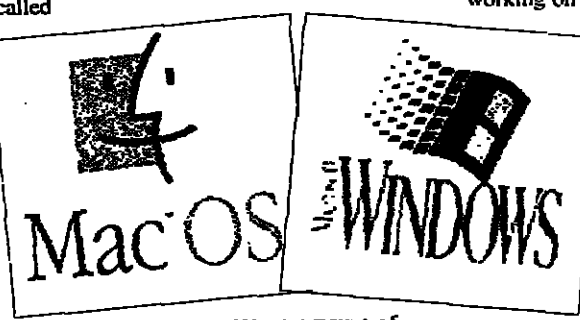
I was impressed with both operating systems. Surprisingly, in spite of being a die-hard PC user, I was really impressed with the new Mac OS.

Both operating systems are huge relative to their predecessors. I suspect that with the new operating systems, the pressure to upgrade, on low end Pentium and 486 users, will be great. Both operating systems have become so big that they are being called "bloated" or "fat clients". It is a good time to upgrade since the high end Pentiums are increasingly becoming low end with the introduction of the new MMX and Pentium II chips.

This means that low budget users are able to easily acquire the high end systems of yesterday.

So, whenever I open a computer magazine, there are articles about the need to strip down these operating systems from all the "fat" accumulated in them. The call usually is for a basic machine (Network Computer) with the minimum requirements for work and a basic operating system, with main software administered

from a central location. Such systems would save millions of dollars in maintenance, installation and administration cost. Many agree with this notion, but those who issue such calls ignore the feelings of corporate users. The so called "bloatware" gives the



user an amount of power which was only available to government organizations and big corporations several years ago. I, for example, use my computer to do my secretarial

work, to communicate, to do correspondence, retrieve client information, retouch photos and adding them to an electronic album, or edit my work. Thus, I have access to all kinds of functions which were scattered all over the place in the old days. Of course, there are many things we wish worked better, and companies are striving to provide that.

The result is more code and bloatware. But the increased performance and functionality never ceases to astound me.

In comparison, the Network Computer might be good for the basic data entry jobs, in which data is transmitted directly to and from a central

computer. But, the sacrifice is I see it is the loss of knowledge that comes by learning through investigating all the capabilities that huge systems offer. It is true that "bloatware" has some problems, that increase support and administration costs, but companies like Microsoft are working on an initiative to drop the support cost to zero on machines using its products.

Even now, wizards, assistants, and help files in modern operating systems can guide the novice user through some basic and intermediate level trouble-

shooting. The cost on users is already going down.

Operating systems and desktop machines will continue to grow. They will also become easier to use and maintain. Network computers will always stay in the office. They might come into the home, but only to be used for routine tasks that few would notice.

The Network computer, I think, is doomed to become just an e-mail and calendaring machine in big corporations or, even, at the home. It is no better than the Psion 3C I use - even on the Psion I have a nice Solitaire game I use when standing in line in some government office. Network computers will always pale in comparison to some 300 MHz machine with a version of Windows or the Mac OS with huge memory and storage capabilities.

OS support in Jordan  
Due to wide-spread piracy.

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Routing protocols on the Internet:

## Can I get a road map?

By Jawad Abbassi

Special to The Star

SUPPOSE YOU'RE traveling from France to England; you drive your car on the French roads, go through the Channel Tunnel, and then end up on British roads. While the Roads in both countries are more or less similar in their physical characteristics, something is very different. According to British rules, you drive on the left hand side of the road. The English driving "protocol" is essentially different from that of France. Similarly, router equipment and the inter-connected networks of the Internet are the physical structures carrying the data packets around, and just as roads in different countries have different traffic rules, so the routers within the Internet's various areas.

The Internet's networked computers are divided into Autonomous Systems, where an Autonomous System is defined as one or more independent networks with a homogeneous Internal Routing Protocol (traffic regulations) and a common number of "entrances and exits", through which other systems can communicate with their hosts. Between Autonomous Systems, exterior routing protocols exchange "reachability" information without requiring that the Internal routing protocols are the same on both systems. The most widely used exterior routing protocol is EGP (Exterior Gateway Protocol). The routing protocols are needed to construct the simple routing tables in the hosts of the Internet which allow them to direct packets to their destination. The host first checks whether it has a direct route to

the required address, and if it doesn't simply routes it to the next designated router as shown by the table.

The data keeps hopping around until it reaches a router with an explicit route to the destination, i.e. a member of



its independent network.

The ubiquitous Internal Routing Protocol on the Internet is RIP (Routing Information Protocol) which derives its name from the fact that it was incorporated in the UNIX Operating System - used on the bulk of Internet Hosts. As explained in a paper by Advanced Computer Communications, RIP automatically creates and maintains network routes between routers and hosts that use RIP. When one router learns about changes in its routes (a down host, or a changed IP address) it relays this information to other neighboring routers to update their tables. If and when a network component fails for any reason, RIP allows for the data to be sent around the failure and determines the best path to do that. This exchange of routing information between routers

using RIP takes place every 30 seconds which is a draw back in the protocol as it creates a high overhead on the network. Another draw back of RIP, is that it relies only on the number of needed hops before it decides on the best route. In doing that, the protocol doesn't pay attention to the connection speed between the different routers and assumes, wrongly, that the less hops there are the faster the delivery.

Because of this, a packet may be sent through 9.6 kbps leased lines over three routers rather than be sent over 2 mbps lines over five or six routers. Furthermore, RIP deems any route more than 15 hops away unreachable which renders it unsuitable for very large Autonomous Systems. To remedy the shortcomings of RIP, the Internet Engineering Task Force proposed the new standard of "Open Shortest Path First Protocol" (OSPF) which began to be used on backbones, but is not yet widely spread as UNIX is yet to support it. OSPF is superior to RIP because it pays attention to the speed of connections before deciding on the best route and it doesn't have the maximum hops limit that RIP has. OSPF seems to be the routing protocol of the future, especially with the great expansion of the Internet's size.

RIP and OSPF can be thought of as driving on the left or on the right. Regardless of which one is used, the Internet's road map - the routing table - is still provided and the traffic never gets lost!

email: Abbassi@NETS.com.jo

## Pentium is officially 'dead'

THIS WEEK, Intel announced that it will stop manufacturing the Pentium processor as unnecessary.

In markets, users will still be able to purchase Pentium PCs for, at most, another six months as there are stocks and will take time for Pentium systems to seize to exist.

In the meantime, Pentium MMX and Pro systems will drop in price and become more readily available.

These are mainly 200, 333 and 266MHz systems. Look out for 300MHz Pentium system, hitting the local market sometime before the end of the year.

A logo we will not be seeing so often

email: Ghneim@go.com.jo

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# From the fast life to the fast track

A BUSINESS career and time-out for partying paid off for the world's top sprinter, Donovan Bailey tells Pat Butcher

How did we ever overlook Donovan Bailey? If he were a smaller, less flamboyant character, without that large shiny, shaven head, then maybe we could claim that he had sneaked up and caught us unawares, rather like he does with his opponents in the latter stages of his 100-metre races. But he's not; so how is it that the most scintillating sprinter on the planet did not go into the 1995 World Championships, the 1996 Olympic Games, and the 1997 Million Dollar Challenge in Toronto against Michael Johnson as favourite? He certainly came out of all three with enough gold to outshine Johnson's gaudy shoes.

With Carl Lewis retiring, with Sergei Bubka off form, with Johnson licking his wounds after his first 400 metres defeat since 1989 (probably attributable to his Toronto shock), Bailey is arguably the most exciting competitor in world athletics at the moment. He is headed for the world championships in Athens next week at full tilt, and as favourite for the first time. But maybe we've ignored him because he hasn't been around for very long.

Basketball was his first love, and although he played at college, he admits he wasn't very good. He had run at school, but did nothing between the ages of 16 and 23. Instead, after taking a degree in economics and business management, he concentrated on a career and the "fast life" of the Toronto nightclubs. As an investment manager, he owned a house and Porsche by the time he was 21.

But he feels that his teenage "time-out" has been a crucial factor of his success. "I ran 10.65sec when I was 16, and I'm sure that if I'd taken a scholarship to America and trained when I was 18 years old, I would have run a hell of a lot faster, but I would have been burned out by now. I wouldn't know how to handle the pressure, the stress, the chaos."

"I think the reason I have been successful is because, as a businessman, I understand what life is all about. I understand the chaos that is part of track. In the heats of the 100 metres, I will still be able to focus on the important things I have to do."

Life began to change in 1991, when he saw his schoolboy friend, Glenroy Gilbert, doing well in athletics. On virtually no training, Bailey made the Canadian team for the Pan-American Games, where he finished eighth in the 100 metres, and anchored the relay team to a silver medal. The following year, he met Gilbert's coach, Dan Pfaff, who was then working at the University of Louisiana at Baton Rouge. "Dan said, 'Do you work out, do you lift weights, are you interested in this sport at all? Because you are gifted enough, you have the tools to become one of the best in the world.'"

"But I was partying too much. I wouldn't get to bed some nights. I was a single guy living comfortably."

Injury kept him out of Barcelona, and after months of occasionally phoning Pfaff to say

he'd be in Louisiana the next week, the coach had virtually given up on Bailey when he turned up in Baton Rouge in February 1993. "I ran the second day I was there and Dan said, 'Oh my God, everything's wrong, your start is bad, your acceleration is bad, you don't lift weights.' I started lifting weights with women. They were left after about 10 weeks, I could do over 200. Dan taught me the importance of all of those things: training, eating, sleeping and rest."

Bailey has been going back ever since for three-month periods, first to Louisiana, now to Austin in Texas, where Pfaff was made head coach two years ago. The breakthrough came in 1994, when he ran 10.03sec for 100 metres. Every year since then, he has won the biggest sprint prize of the season. A world record 100 metres man from Toronto, but born in Jamaica, is evidently going to excite comparison with the drug-abusing Ben Johnson, who has the same background. When Bailey won the 100 metres in Gothenburg, the first question at his press conference was about Johnson. Bailey limited himself to a trace of exasperation as he reminded the assembly he wasn't around when Johnson was running. But he accepts that comparisons are inevitable.

"I am very glad that Ben got caught, because it opened the door for the massive drug testing that we have in Canada, and although it's very annoying and invasive sometimes, I'm aware that no one's that stupid or that desperate in our country to do it."

When following him recently on the grand prix circuit for a couple of days, various people kept hinting that Bailey wasn't perhaps the nice guy that he seems. After his 100 metres victory in 9.94sec (his fourth best) against Linford Christie in Nuremberg last month, one of his managers said, "It's a good job he won last night. Maybe he wouldn't have been so amenable."

One of his sponsors was unusually frank, saying, "He can be real mean". But then he went on to describe how Bailey had been to company headquarters the previous day, eaten in the staff canteen, and thoroughly charmed everyone.

And in these couple of days, from athletes' hotel to stadium, to official reception, to restaurant, to TV studio, he was never anything but



Donovan Bailey

amenable. OK, it was still within two weeks of his victory in Toronto, and he was winning on the circuit, and having a good time being chased by a posse of women.

But there wasn't a sign of bad humour. Which is why people were surprised at his reaction just after the Toronto race against Michael Johnson, whom Bailey believed had been insulting him for six months before the race. With Johnson still limping along the track, Bailey raced to the nearest microphone to call Johnson "chicken", "faking", "not injured", among many other things. Conservative Canada was shocked, but it was hardly the Mike Tyson league of sporting abuse.

"A lot of people really didn't understand the things that were taking place. The attacks had got personal and very disrespectful. But every time [Johnson] said something derogatory about me or my staff, I didn't run to the media. I totally blew up, but it was something I had to get out. But then I realised it was wrong. I like to win gracefully. I think there's a lot of people, especially younger people, who look up to me. I have a daughter, and I really care what they think, and I try to be positive. I did some-

thing that was totally out of character, so I think it was very important to apologise."

Despite the furore, there is a strong possibility of a rematch in Las Vegas. Bailey admits that the reaction in Europe was largely negative, "but TV ratings in Canada were higher than for the Olympic 100 metres, and CBS (US TV) said they hadn't had such high ratings for athletics for years. I and be OK. If he feels that he got hurt last time, and that's why he didn't win, we'll do it again. I'll prepare for it again, and when I prepare for something and I get focused, it usually comes out the way I want."

But first, there is the world championships where Bailey is going into his first major title chase as a favourite.

And he has two big advantages he runs better with successive rounds and, perhaps more importantly, he rises to the big occasion. "I love to compete, but I really hate the one-off races. OK, Toronto was different, but when it comes to the Olympic Games or the world championships, with the heats and a final, I get more relaxed with each round. If we had six rounds, it would be perfect."

Off the track, Bailey somehow doesn't seem so big. As if, at rest, he has shrunk himself to conserve his energy. As it turns out, he has lost about 8kg since last year. He has acquired a nutritionist, to go with the physiotherapist and chiropractor who travel with him. "I'm eating better, I'm stronger and lighter, and my starts are a lot better than last year. That's why I feel I can do a lot faster than 9.84sec [his world record]."

Bailey has had a good few weeks financially. The \$1.5m from Toronto was extraordinary. But with close to \$100,000 in appearance money and bonuses for each stop on the grand prix circuit, he is preparing to close the investment business that one of his four brothers has been managing for him.

Given that his contracts with Adidas, Coca-Cola, Air Canada, Nu-Life Vitamins, and others bring him the multi-millions he didn't earn in his previous life, he could go public as an institution himself.

But money, he claims, is the product of his talent, not a primary concern. "I've never gone into the world championships thinking about the gold medal and the money. Because you get totally side-tracked. It's like me stepping on to the track, thinking what time I am going to run today. If I ever do that, I'll be lost." There seems little likelihood of that happening for some time. ■

Financial Times Syndication

## Around serie a Bologna insures Baggio's legs

MILAN — Alan Shearer's injury and the effect on Newcastle's shares has had its first repercussion in Italy: Bologna president Giuseppe Gazoni Frascara has decided to insure the legs of his precious new recruit, Roberto Baggio, for around 10 billion lire (\$3.7 million). Bologna are among the few Italian clubs planning to seek a stock market listing, most likely on a foreign exchange.

Kanchelskis fights for his place: Former Everton hero Andrei Kanchelskis is still struggling to make his mark at Fiorentina and could be on the substitutes' bench when they meet Spurs on Saturday. The Italians have left him out with limited success in midfield, while competition is stiff for a place up front. The Corriere dello Sport explained that the Ukrainian is struggling with team tactics "because a good deal of his natural skill has withered away after having played in England for so many years"

As Roma consider move to Ireland: Top Italian club AS Roma, who in recent years have installed their pre-season summer training camp at Kapfenberg, Austria, are considering moving next year - to Ireland. Tuttosport reported that a Roma official will soon be leaving to visit a couple of possible venues in the Republic; the locations offering both privacy for the squad and good links between hotels and sports facilities. ■

## Havelange pushes his 'Best Friend' as replacement

By Alex Johnson

SECOND VERSE. Same as the First: Joao Havelange, president of FIFA, the world governing body of soccer, has advanced a new candidate to succeed him when he retires next year. It's Julio Grondona, chairman of the Argentine Football Association.

Grondona may or may not be a good choice. I can be convinced that he's certainly better than some of the other candidates, especially as a check on the snowballing Europeanization of soccer's governing hierarchy. But that's not why Havelange is promoting him.

"Julio is a great friend," Havelange said last week. "He's like my brother."

That should set off alarm bells. Havelange's track record in this area is abysmal. One of his relatives, his son-in-law, his almost single-handedly destroyed Brazilian soccer as head of the Brazilian Federation. A FIFA spokesman wisely chose not to comment on Havelange's statement. ■

Ten-year-old Maradona junior signs for Napoli youth team

NAPLES, Italy — Diego Maradona junior has signed up for his natural father's former club at the tender age of 10.

Maradona senior, whose seven-year spell with Napoli ended in 1991 when he fled drugs charges, has never admitted being the boy's father.

The youngster, the centre of attention earlier this year when he played in a tournament near Naples, signed Monday for one of Napoli's junior teams next season.

An Italian court ruled in 1995 that the youngster was the result of an affair between Maradona and Cristina Sinagra. ■



## Lebanon

By Nura Boustany

BALBEK — Lebanon's first female judge, Judge Nura Boustany, has been appointed to the Beirut District Court. She is the first woman to hold this position in the country's history.

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